

Chapter 10

Other Notable UK Bells

While the two previous chapters dealt with a number of prints from both the Palace of Westminster and St Paul's Cathedral, there are other prints of ringing scenes from other notable UK locations. This chapter deals with some of these.

(i) St Mary le Bow, Cheapside, London

Archaeological evidence indicates that a church existed on this site in Saxon times. A medieval version of the church had been destroyed by the 1091 tornado, one of the earliest recorded in Britain, although the newly completed arched crypt survived. During the later Norman period the church, known as St Mary de Arcubus was rebuilt and was famed for the arches ("bows") of stone.

From at least the 13th century, the church was a peculiar of the Diocesan of Canterbury and the seat of the Anglican Ecclesiastical Court, the Court of Arches, to which it gave the name.



Bow tower pre Great Fire of London taken from *Old London Illustrated* by H W Brewer (1921). Print shows the original church together with old St Paul's Cathedral in the background

The church with its steeple had been a landmark of London and is considered the second most important church in the City of London after St Paul's Cathedral. It was one of the first churches to be rebuilt by Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London in 1666 with the 68 meter steeple completed in 1680. In 1914, a stone from the crypt of St Mary-le-Bow church was placed in Trinity Church, New York, in recognition that King William III granted the vestry of Trinity Church the same privileges as St Mary-le-Bow vestry.



Bow Church following the re-building by Wren after the Great Fire of London. Taken from *The History of London from its Foundation by the Romans to the present time With several accounts of Westminster, Middlesex, Southwark, and other parts within the Bill of Mortality* by William Maitland. Published in a number of editions (1st 1739, 2nd 1756 in two volumes, 3rd 1700, 4th edition 1769, with an enlarged edition by John Entick 1775. Illustration shown is by William Henry Toms

Bow bells are famous for supposedly calling a young Dick Whittington to return to London to make his fortune and become Lord Mayor of the City. A study was carried out in 2000 to see how far away the current Bow Bells can be heard. The results suggested up to six miles to the east, five miles to the north, three miles to the south, and four miles to the west. According to the legend of Dick Whittington they could once be heard from as far away as the Highgate which is 4.5 miles north!

The 1552 Church Inventory records 5 bells and 2 sanctus bells in the tower and church records suggest these had been augmented to 6 bells by 1635. A new ring was cast by the Hodson foundry following the Great Fire of London and hung in a temporary structure until the tower was completed.

Bell	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Date	Founder	Fate
Treble		1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1762
2 nd		1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1762
3 rd		1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1762
4 th		1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1762
5 th		1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1762
6 th		1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1762
7 th		1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1762
Tenor	53 cwt approx.	1677	John & Christopher Hodson	Recast 1738

A number of bells were recast in 1762 when the ring was augmented to 10 bells. A further two trebles to form a ring of 12 bells were added in 1881.

Bell	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Date	Founder	Fate
Treble	8-0-21	F#	1881	Mears & Stainbank	Recast 1933
2 nd	8-2-16	E	1881	Mears & Stainbank	Recast 1933
3 rd	8-3-7	D#	1762	Lester & Pack	Recast 1933
4 th	9-0-2	C#	1762	Lester & Pack	Destroyed 1941
5 th	10-1-4	B	1762	Lester & Pack	Destroyed 1941
6 th	12-0-7	A#	1762	Lester & Pack	Recast 1933
7 th	13-2-4	G#	1762	Lester & Pack	Recast 1933
8 th	17-0-11	F#	1762	Lester & Pack	Recast 1933
9 th	20-2-26	E	1762	Lester & Pack	Destroyed 1941
10 th	24-2-5	D#	1762	Lester & Pack	Recast 1933
11 th	34-1-8	C#	1762	Lester & Pack	Destroyed 1941
Tenor	53-0-22	B	1738	Thomas Lester	Recast 1933

In 1933 the ring were updated following a gift from H. Gordon Selfridge founder of the London departmental store in Oxford Street.

Bell	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Date	Founder	Fate
Treble	6-0-9	F#	1933	Gillett & Johnston	
2 nd	6-1-10	E	1933	Gillett & Johnston	
3 rd	7-0-0	D#	1933	Gillett & Johnston	
4 th	8-2-4	C#	1762	Lester & Pack	1933 Gillett & Johnston
5 th	9-2-8	B	1762	Lester & Pack	1933 Gillett & Johnston
6 th	10-2-20	A#	1933	Gillett & Johnston	
7 th	13-2-21	G#	1933	Gillett & Johnston	
8 th	16-2-14	F#	1933	Gillett & Johnston	
9 th	19-0-7	E	1762	Lester & Pack	1933 Gillett & Johnston
10 th	25-3-17	D#	1933	Gillett & Johnston	
11 th	31-2-0	C#	1762	Lester & Pack	1933 Gillett & Johnston
Tenor	54-0-12	B	1933	Gillett & Johnston	

Much of the current building was destroyed by a bomb during the Blitz on 10 May 1941 which caused the bells crashed to the ground. Restoration began in 1956 and a new ring of bells were cast which were eventually installed to resume ringing in 1961.

Bell	Name	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Date	Founder
Treble	Katherine	5-3-21	G	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
2 nd	Fabian	5-3-10	F	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
3 rd	Christopher	6-1-7	E	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
4 th	Margaret	6-2-17	D	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
5 th	Mildred	7-3-27	C	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
6 th	Faith	8-3-27	B	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
7 th	Augustine	10-0-20	A	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
8 th	John	12-1-11	G	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
9 th	Timothy	17-3-17	F	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
10 th	Pancras	21-2-23	E	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
11 th	Cuthbert	29-1-5	D	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel
Tenor	Bow	41-3-21	C	1956	Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel



One of the Bells of London's St Mary-le-Bow is retrieved from Wreckage after Nazi Air Raid with St Paul's Cathedral in the background. Taken from *Sunday Times*, 22 October 1961 (original photo: 9.7cm by 23.2cm)



Bow Bells are Rung Again: The Duke of Edinburgh Bringing an End to the Twenty Two Year Silence of the 'Great Bell of Bow' during a moving Ceremony in Cheapside, London, on December 20. Taken from *The Illustrated London News*, 30 December 1961, page 1133 (23.0cm by 24.5cm)



The Bow Peal on Christmas Eve taken from *The Illustrated London News: Christmas Supplement* 1850, page 500 (23.0cm by 15.5cm)



THE GREAT BELL OF BOW. Weight, 53cwt. 0qr. 22lbs.

The old bells before the great fire of London are said to have recalled Dick Whittington to London from Highgate, in about 1375, to complete his apprenticeship.

THE earliest recorded mention of a bell at Bow Church is in 1334, when the City ordered that no one should wander about the streets "after the hour of curfew rung out at the Church of our Lady at Bow." In 1469 it was rung at Bow at 9.0, an hour later than outside the City. The ringing was apparently not always punctual, for we find the London apprentices giving the Clerk admonition by writing on the Church wall:

"Clerk of the Bow Bell, with the yellow locks,
For thy late ringing thy head shall have knocks."

The Clerk fearful of trouble wrote in reply:

"Children of Cheap, hold you all still,
For you shall have the Bow Bells ring at your will."

The Great Fire (1666) destroyed the old bells. Eight new bells were installed about 1669. In 1738 the great tenor bell cracked. In 1762 the peal was re-cast, and two new bells were added. Two more bells have been added subsequently.

The weights are now:

cwt. qrs. lbs.			cwt. qrs. lbs.				
No. 1—	8	0	21	No. 7—	12	0	24
<i>(the treble bells)</i>				" 8—	17	0	11
" 2—	8	2	16	" 9—	20	2	26
" 3—	8	3	7	" 10—	24	2	5
" 4—	9	2	0	" 11—	34	2	6
" 5—	10	1	4	" 12—	53	0	22
" 6—	12	0	7	<i>(the tenor bell)</i>			

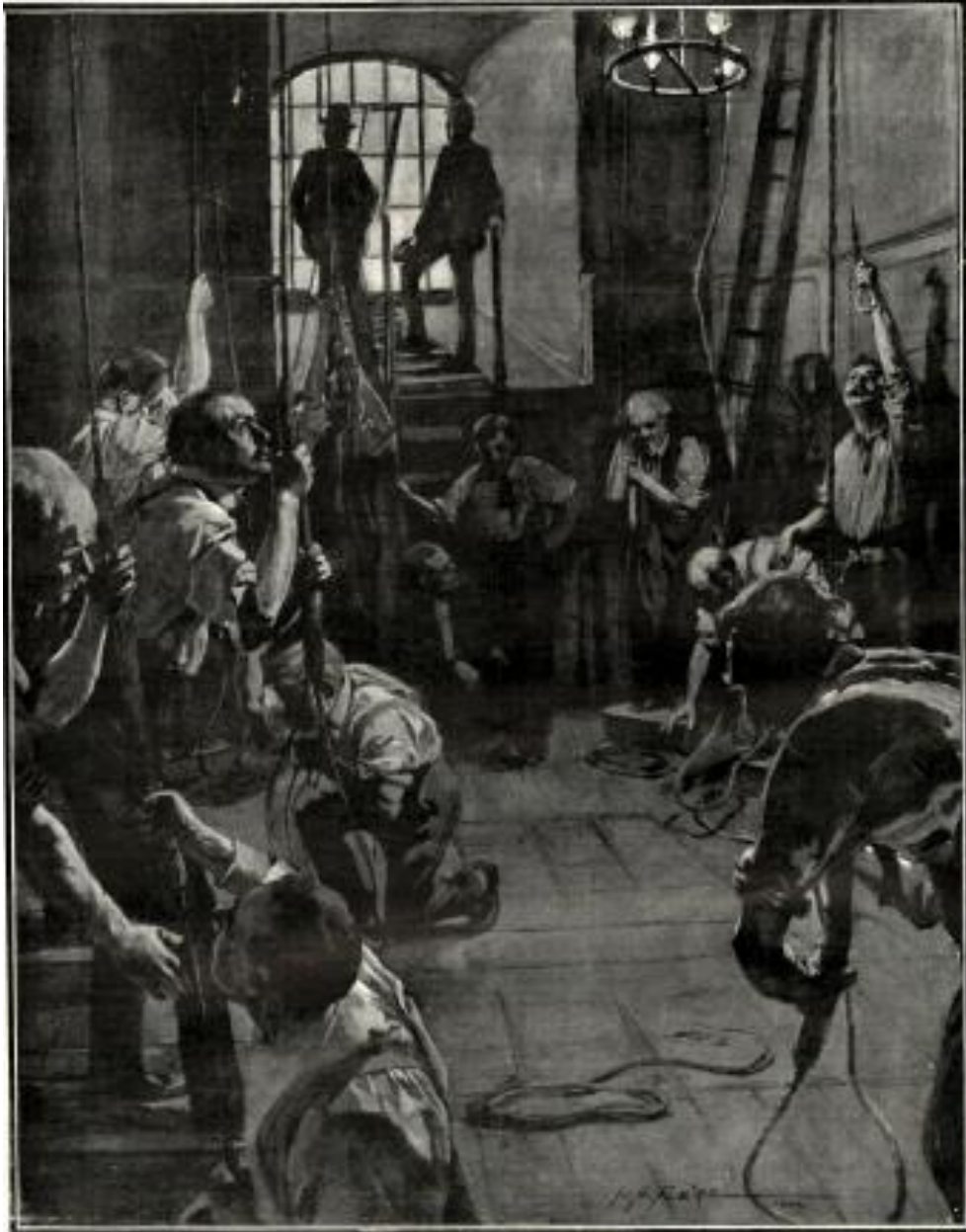
The notes are from G to middle C. The total weight is about 11 tons.

P. T. O

Postcard of the 1881 ring of bells featuring the tenor (14.0cm by 9.0cm).



The Silence of Bow Bells: A Sketch in the Belfry at Bow Church Last Week taken from *Black & White* 31 May 1902, page 771 (21.5cm by 27.5cm)



Rehearsing Coronation Chimes at St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside taken from *The Graphic*, 28 June 1902, page 866 (24.0cm by 30.5cm)



Practising Christmas Chimes: Bell ringers at St Mary-le-Bow taken from *The Graphic*, 28 December 1907, page 904. Bell image Inserted at top features the 1738 Thomas Lester cast tenor (22.5cm by 16.0cm)

(ii) York Minster

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York, better known as York Minster, is the seat of the Archbishop of York, the third-highest office of the Church of England after the monarch as Supreme Governor and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The two west towers of the Minster hold bells, clock chimes and a concert carillon. The north-west tower contains Great Peter (216 cwt or 10.8 tons) and six clock bells (the largest weighing just over 60 cwt or 3 tons). The south-west tower holds 14 bells (tenor 59 cwt or 3 tons) hung and rung for change ringing and 22 carillon bells (tenor 23 cwt or 1.2 tons) which are played from a baton keyboard in the ringing chamber.

York Minster became the first cathedral in England to have a carillon of bells with the arrival of a further twenty-four small bells on 4 April 2008. These are added to the existing 'Nelson Chime' which is chimed to announce Evensong around 5.00 pm each day, giving a carillon of 35 bells in total (three chromatic octaves). The new bells were cast at the Loughborough Bell Foundry by John Taylor & Co where all of the existing Minster bells were cast.

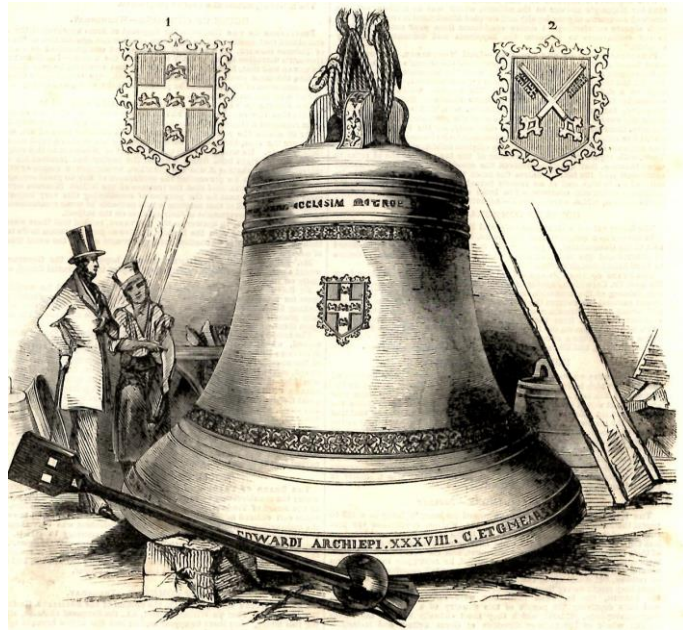


Taken from Drake's *Eboracum* published in 1736.

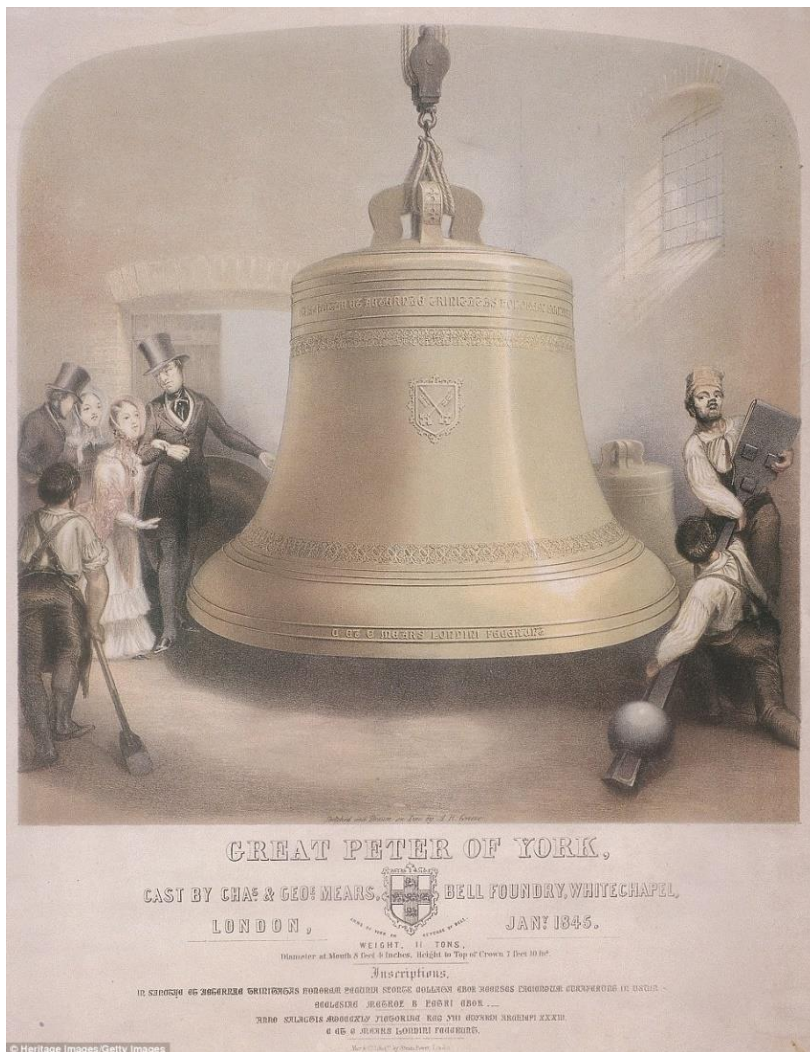
A fuller description of these bells and their history can be found in *The Bells and Bellringers of York Minster* by David Potter (2009), ISBN 978-1-904446-20-0. The details for Great Peter, the bell featured in the prints below, are as follows:

Founder	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Diameter	Note
C & G Mears (Whitechapel)	1845	200-0-14	254cm	F
Inscription: IN SANCTAE ET AETERNAE TRINITATIS HONOREM PECUNIA SPONTE COLLATA EBORACENSES FACIENDUM CURAVERUNT IN USURN ECCLESIAE METROP B PETRI EBOR ANNO SALUTIS MDCCCXLV VICTORIAE REG VIII EDVARDI ARCHIEPI C ET G. MEARS LONDINI FECERUNT. This translate 'To the honour of the holy and eternal Trinity with money freely collected, the people of York caused this bell to be made for the use of the Metropolitan Church of the Blessed Peter of York in the year of salvation 1845, the eighth year of Queen Victoria and the thirty-eighth year of Archbishop Edward Vernon-Harcourt.'				

Change ringing on the bells fell silent in October 2016 following the controversial termination of the ringers' volunteer agreements by the then Dean and Chapter. The pause in ringing included the Christmas period of 2016, reported as the first time in over 600 years that the Minster's bells were not heard on Christmas Day. After a year with no change ringing, a new band was appointed and ringing resumed.



The Monster Bell for York Minster taken from *The Illustrated London News*, 15 February 1845, page 97 (16.0cm by 14.0cm)



Original source unknown

(iii) Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lincoln

Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Minster, or the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln, is the seat of the Anglican Bishop of Lincoln. Construction commenced in 1072 and continued in several phases throughout the Middle Ages. It was built in the Gothic style of that period.



Print of Lincoln Cathedral by Wenceslaus Hollar

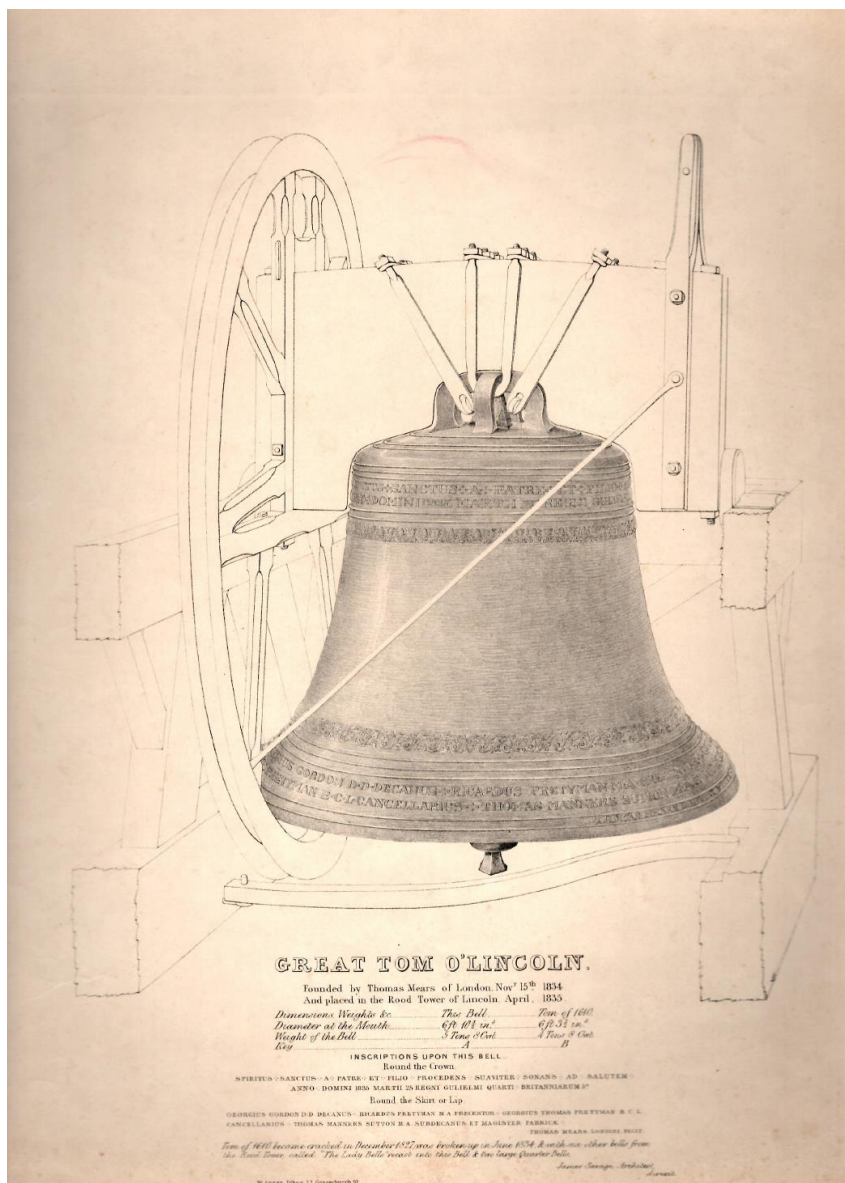
It was the tallest building in the world for 238 years (1311–1548), and the first building to hold that title after the Great Pyramid of Giza. The central spire collapsed in 1548 and was not rebuilt. For hundreds of years the Cathedral held one of the four remaining copies of the original Magna Carta, now securely displayed in Lincoln Castle. It is the fourth largest Cathedral in the UK (in floor area) at around 5,000 m² (54,000 ft²), after Liverpool, St Paul's and York Minster.

The Cathedral has twenty bells spread across three towers which include a changing ringing peal of 12, but this section looks at Great Tom only as this is the bell which features in the print which follows.

Great Tom has had to be recast a number of times, most recently in 1834 when the previous bell was found to be cracked in December 1827. It was broken up and the metal used to recast a new bell. When installed it was said to be heard up to 13 miles away.

Founder	Date	Weight	Note
Thomas Mears II (Whitechapel)	1834	108cwt	A

A clock by John Thwaite was installed in the north-west tower in 1775. This was later improved by Benjamin Vulliamy and moved to the broad tower around 1835. It was replaced in 1880 by a new clock under the instruction of Edmund Beckett QC. The clock was built by Potts and Sons of Leeds and had Cambridge Chimes as a feature. The hour hammer is 224 pounds (102 kg) and strikes Great Tom.



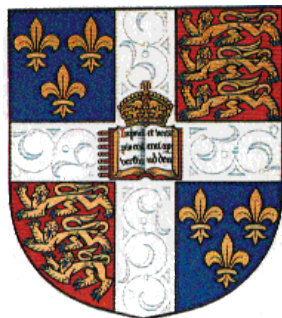
Great Tom O'Lincoln: Broadsheet 1834 (33.5cm by 43.5cm)

Further details of the other bells, which include a changing ringing peal of 12 can be found in *Lincoln Cathedral: A History of the Bells, Bellringers and Bellringing* by John Ketteringham (2000), ISBN 0 9537606-0-X.

(iv) Cathedral Church of Christ, Oxford

In 1525, at the height of his power Thomas Wolsey, then Lord Chancellor of England and Cardinal Archbishop of York, suppressed the Priory of St Frideswide in Oxford and founded Cardinal College on its lands using funds from the dissolution of Wallingford Prior and other lesser Priories. He planned the establishment on a magnificent scale, but fell from grace in 1529, with the buildings only three-quarters complete, as they were to remain for 140 years.

In 1531 the college was itself suppressed, but it was re-founded in 1532 as King Henry VIII's College. By 1546 the King, who had acquired great wealth through the dissolution of the monasteries in England, re-founded the college as Christ Church as part of the re-organisation of the Church of England, making the partially demolished priory church the cathedral of the recently created Diocese of Oxford. It is aligned with Trinity College, Cambridge, founded the same year by Henry VIII.



Christ Church Cathedral arms



Christ College, Oxford University

Major additions have been made to the buildings through the centuries, and Wolsey's Great Quadrangle was crowned with the famous gate tower designed by Sir Christopher Wren. This tower is the home of Great Tom which is rung 101 times at 9 pm at the former Oxford time (9:05 pm GMT/BST) every night, for the 100 original scholars of the college (plus one added in 1664).

The original Great Tom was moved from Osney Abbey after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The bell, formerly known as Mary, was moved to St Frideswide, Oxford in 1545, after which at some point it was renamed Tom. It had caused problems since its first casting, wearing out its clapper, and was recast in 1626 and 1654, but without solving the problem. In 1678–79, Richard Keene of Woodstock tried three times to recast the bell, in the process increasing its weight from two to over six tons.

Founder	Date	Weight
Christopher Hodson (London)	1680	108cwt

But it was not until a final recasting in 1680 by Christopher Hodson, a bell-founder from London, that success was achieved. It was hung in the newly completed Tom Tower where it has remained.



Print of the gate house and tower



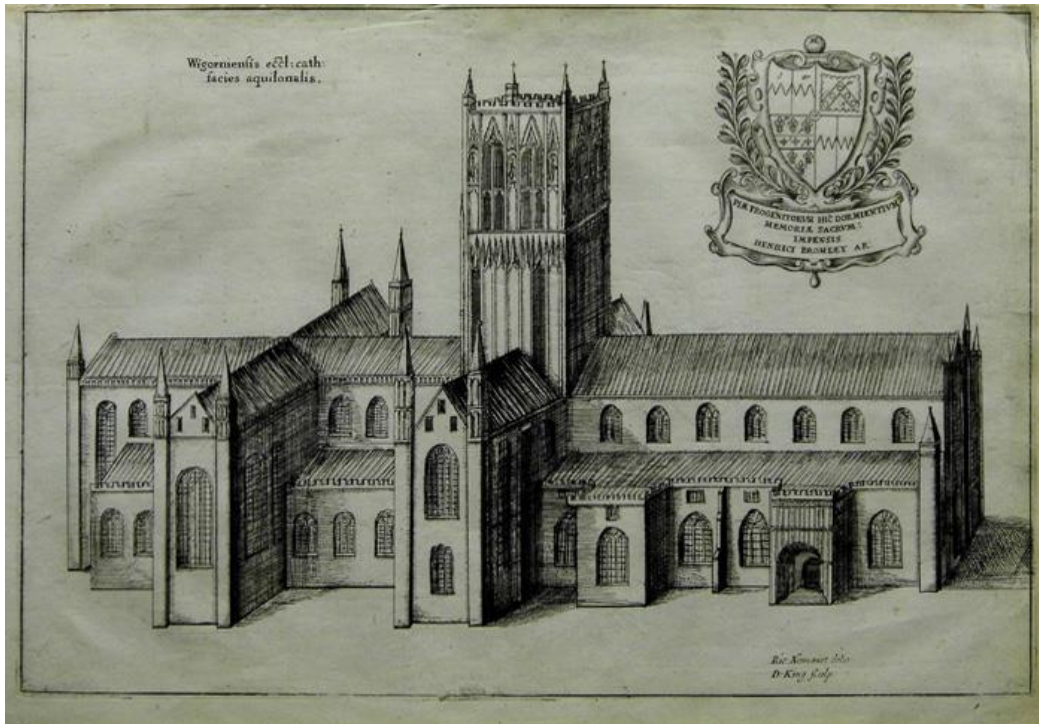
Oxford Illustrated: Great Tom taken from *The Graphic*, 3 June 1882, p561 (5.6cm by 5.4cm)

A ring of 12 bells hung for change ringing can be found in the separate tower of the Cathedral building itself.

(v) Cathedral Church of Christ & Blessed Virgin Mary, Worcester

The present building was built between 1084 and 1504, and represents every style of English architecture from Norman to perpendicular gothic. It is famous for its Norman crypt, unique Chapter House, unusual transitional gothic bays, fine woodwork and central tower of particularly fine proportions.

The Cathedral was founded in 680, with a Northumbrian priest, Tatwine, appointed as its first Bishop. Unfortunately he died before he could be consecrated, so his successor Bishop Bosel may be regarded as Worcester's first serving Bishop. The first Cathedral church, dedicated to Ss. Peter and Paul, was built in this period, but no remains of its architecture survive. The community associated with the Cathedral in the early eighth century included members of various clerical orders. It was regulated along formal monastic lines as a consequence of the Benedictine reforms in the second half of the 10th century. There is an important connection with Fleury Abbey in France, as Oswald, Bishop of Worcester from 961 to 992, was professed at Fleury and introduced the monastic rule of Fleury to the monastery that he established at Worcester around the year 966, which was dedicated — as the present cathedral church is — to St. Mary. The last Anglo-Saxon bishop of Worcester, Wulstan, unusually remained Bishop after the Norman Conquest until his death in 1095. He was later made a saint.



Etching taken from *The Cathedral and Conventual Churches of England and Wales* by Daniel King after Richard Newcourt (1656)

The Cathedral is also the burial place of King John who succeeded his brother Richard I as King of England.

The tower has a change ringing peal of twelve bells plus three semitone bells and a non-swinging bourdon bell. The current 15 ringing bells were cast by John Taylor & Co, of Loughborough in 1928 from the metal of the original ring cast in 1869. The ring is the sixth heaviest ring of twelve in the world, only the bells in the Cathedrals of Liverpool, Exeter, York, St Paul's London and St Mary Redcliffe church in Bristol are heavier. The bells are also considered to be one of the finest toned rings ever cast. The bells hang in a wooden frame that was constructed in 1869 for the previous ring. Worcester Cathedral is unique in having a purpose-built teaching centre equipped with eight special training bells, linked to computers.

(i) Original peal (now on display in the Cloister)

Bell	Date	Founder
Treble	circ. 1480	Worcester foundry
2 nd	1641	Unidentified
3 rd	circ. 1380	William Burford
4 th	circ. 1380	William Burford
5 th	circ. 1380	William Burford
6 th	circ. 1475	Possibly John Danyell

(ii) Current change ringing bells

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Founder
Treble	1928	6-3-10	John Taylor & Co.
2 nd	1928	7-1-16	John Taylor & Co.
3 rd	1928	7-2-20	John Taylor & Co.
4 th	1928	7-3-25	John Taylor & Co.
5 th	1928	8-2-19	John Taylor & Co.
6 th	1928	10-0-6	John Taylor & Co.
7 th	1928	12-0-1	John Taylor & Co.
8 th	1928	14-3-26	John Taylor & Co.
9 th	1928	20-0-6	John Taylor & Co.
10 th	1928	25-2-10	John Taylor & Co.
11 th	1928	34-3-4	John Taylor & Co.
Tenor	1928	48-0-2	John Taylor & Co.

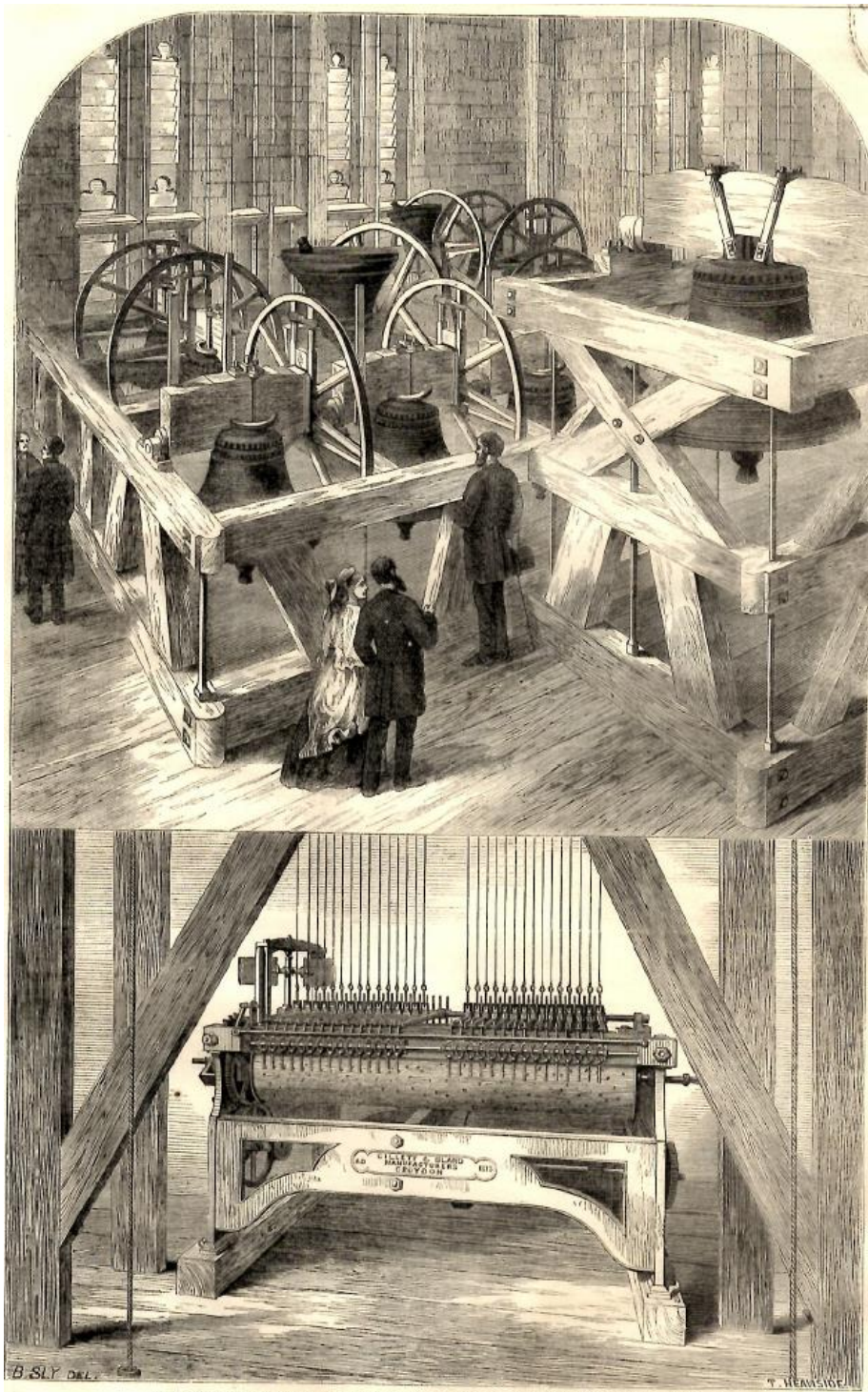
There are additional bells to increase the flexibility of ringing on different combinations of bells.

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Founder
2#	2017	7-3-3	The Westley Group
5#	1928	8-0-15	John Taylor & Co.
6b	1928	10-2-24	John Taylor & Co.
9#	1928	16-1-16	John Taylor & Co.

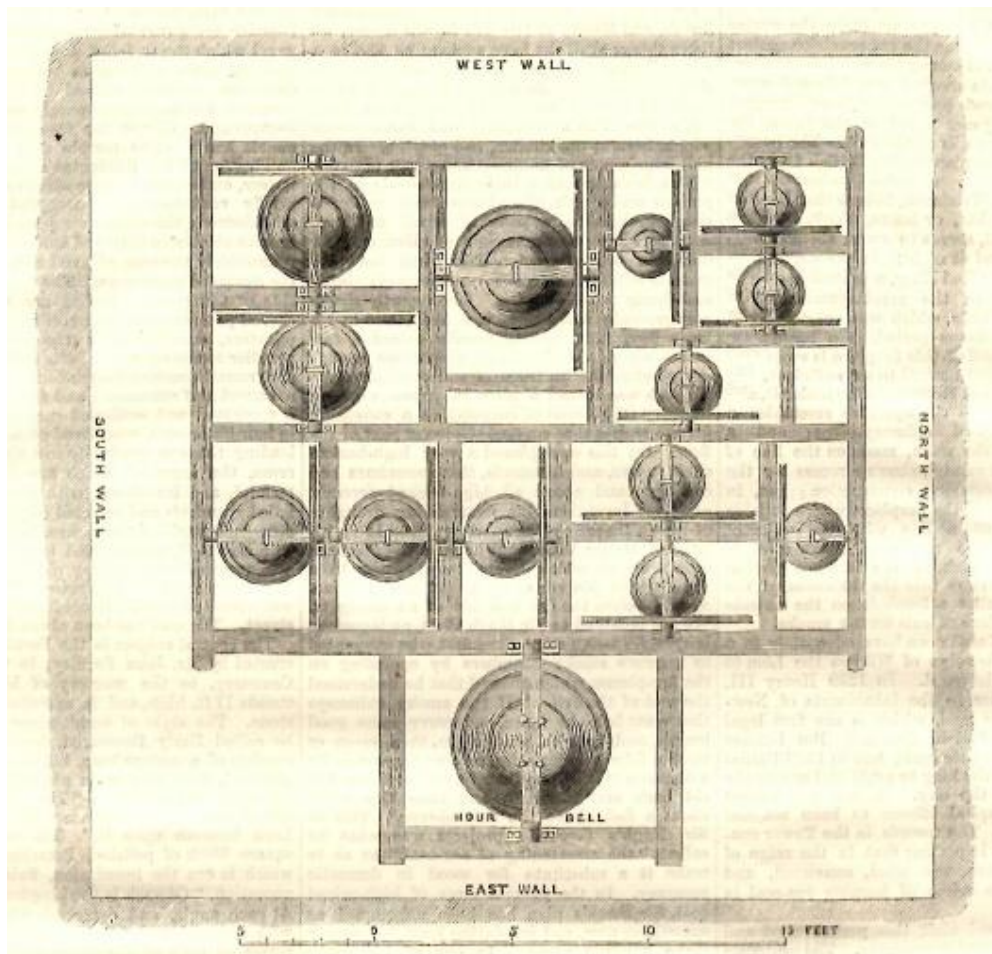
There is also a bourdon bell together with the recently established Teaching Centre there.

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Founder
Bourdon	1868	82-3-24	John Taylor & Co.

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Founder
1	1615	circ. 5-0-0	Godwin Baker
2	1693	circ. 8-3-0	John II Martin
3	2003	0-1-25	Petit & Fritsen
4	2003	0-2-1	Petit & Fritsen
5	2003	0-2-12	Petit & Fritsen
6	2003	0-2-26	Petit & Fritsen
7	2003	0-3-13	Petit & Fritsen
8	2003	0-3-22	Petit & Fritsen
9	2003	1-0-16	Petit & Fritsen
10	2003	1-1-10	Petit & Fritsen



The Bells and the Carillon Machine, Worcester Cathedral taken from *The Builder*, 21 March 1875, page 242 (18.0cm by 27.0cm)



Plan of the Bells and Bell Chamber, Worcester Cathedral taken from *The Builder*, 21 March 1875, page 239 (13.5cm by 13.5cm)

(vi) Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Southwark

The Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, lies on the south bank of the River Thames close to London Bridge. It has been a place of Christian worship for more than 1,000 years, but a cathedral only since the creation of the Diocese of Southwark in 1905.

Between 1106 and 1538 it was the church of an Augustinian priory dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, it became a parish church with the new dedication of St Saviour. The church was in the Winchester Diocese until 1877 after which it, along with other South London parishes, transferred to the Rochester Diocese. The present building retains the basic form of the gothic structure built between 1220 and 1420, although the nave is a late 19th-century reconstruction.



Engraved by Claes Visscher (1586-1652) depicting a panorama of London prior to the Great Fire. It was published in 1616 and shows St Saviour Southwark in the foreground on the south bank next to the old London Bridge. Old St Pauls Cathedral and other church spires can be seen on the northern bank of the River Thames.

The tower was begun in 1310, when the four massive Norman piers were erected. The top two tiers of the tower were built by Bishop Fox of Winchester between 1520 and 1528. Each stage has two large windows on each side. The upper stage is surmounted by an embattled parapet, formed of alternate panels of dark flint and white stone. The tower itself is 35 feet square and rises to a height of 163½ feet. A stone spiral staircase of 97 steps leads to a gallery of small columns, commanding splendid views of the chancel and High Altar. The ceiling of the chancel crossing was beautifully restored in 1976 to include some of the bosses from the old nave ceiling of 1469. Above this are the belfry and then the bell chamber in the upper part of the tower.

The earliest available records show seven bells prior to 1424:

Bell	Name	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)
1	St Nicholas	5-2-9
2	Vincent	12-0-21
3	St Lawrence	13-0-8
4	Anna Maria	15-0-9
5	Stephen	19-3-7
6	Maria	27-3-13
7	Augustus	38-0-7

This ring was augmented in 1424 to eight bells to mark marriage of Bishop Henry Beaufort's niece, Joan, to James 1st of Scotland. An inventory of the goods and ornaments of the church in 1548 record that there were then *'vj belles hanging in the steeple with a litell bell'* while a later inventory gives *'vj belles of accorde and one small bell, which belles the parysshe bought of the late kinge of ffamousse memory Kinge Henry the eight at the purchesinge of the hole Churche'*. No firm details are provided of when the bells were hung for full circle ringing.

Two historic ringing feats are believed to have been performed on these bells. The first, which is the earliest account of change ringing in the tower, was on 18 November 1684 when the Society of College Youths are said to have rung three extents on the largest six bells - one each of Oxford Treble Bob, College Single and Oxford Bob. At the time, this was the longest piece of ringing that had been performed anywhere without stopping. Although there is no contemporary record of this piece of ringing there were references of the feat in 1738 suggesting it is likely to have taken place. The feat was commemorated with a repeat performance, but on the back six of the ring of 12 bells, exactly 300 years later (see Ringing World 14 December 1984 pages 1057 to 1058).

The second event, which can be verified, was the first peal 5040 Bob Triples rung on 19 December 1730. It was again rung by members of the Society of College Youths with the peal composed and conducted by Benjamin Annable.

In 1734 the bell founder Samuel Knight of Holborn was approached to cast a new ring of 12 bells. He set up his foundry for the job in Winchester Yard immediately next to the church. The massive frame for Southwark's new bells (still in situ after some 260 years of use) was made by Robert Catlin (1709-51), a lifelong friend of Samuel Knight's. Indeed Knight made Catlin his executor, and left the business to him when he died in 1739, just four years after the completion of the new twelve at Southwark.

The accounts presented by Knight at the completion of his work were:

	£	s.	d.
To cash collected of subscribers	496	13	6
To 8cwt 2qrs 2lbs new metal sold to Messrs. Knight and Co at £5 per cwt	43	9	8
To 1cwt 2qrs 26lbs copper to John King at 11d lb		8	17 10
Balance due to the Wardens		<u>80</u>	<u>0 7</u>
		<u>629</u>	<u>1 7</u>

	£	s.	d.
By William Skelton for charge of a faculty		8	17 0
Sundry charges at taking security at contracting		5	9 10
By Thomas Briggs for copper to make new metal	125	12	0
By Mr. William Clarke for 8cwt 1qr 11lb of fine tin at £4 per cwt	33	8	0
By cartage to weighing		4	6
Labour etc.		5	0
For one chaldron coals to heat the new metal		1	11 0
By copper company for 4cwt of metal low		16	1 7
By ditto for fine new metal	202	12	8
By Knight and Co. for contract for casting and hanging the bells		<u>235</u>	<u>0 0</u>
		<u>629</u>	<u>1 7</u>

The accounts further show that the old peal of eight weighed a total of 155cwt 1 qtr 20 lb. Knight allowed 3 lbs per cwt for waste in casting thereby losing a total of 4cwt 0qr 18lb. This left him with 151cwt 1qr 7 lb. In order to cast the new twelve, total weight 215cwt 1qr 9lbs, he therefore needed to buy 64cwt 0qr 7lb of new bell metal.

Four of these bells subsequently were recast - the 11th bell in 1820, 10th bell in 1844, tenor in 1910 and then the 7th bell in 1931. A major overhaul was carried out when the tenor was recast in 1910. All eleven bells, plus the new tenor, were re-hung with all new fittings. The

six largest bells were fitted with cast iron headstocks, and the remainder with elm. The frame was also strengthened with tie bolts and angle plates.

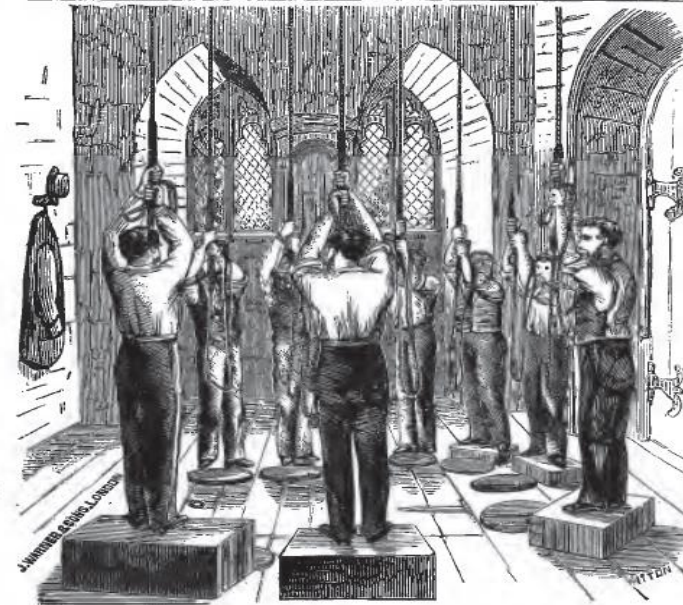
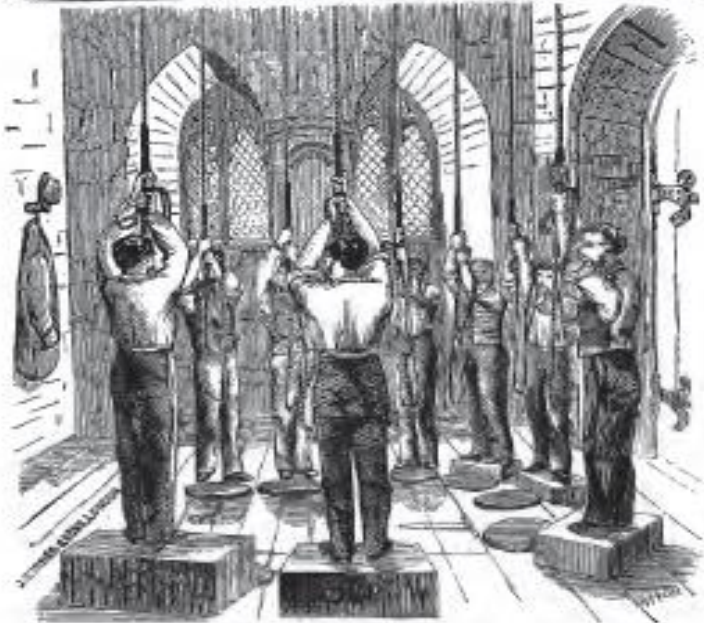
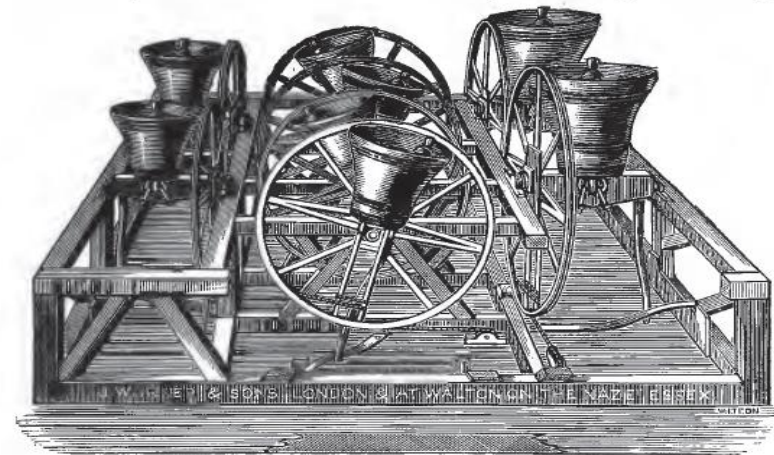
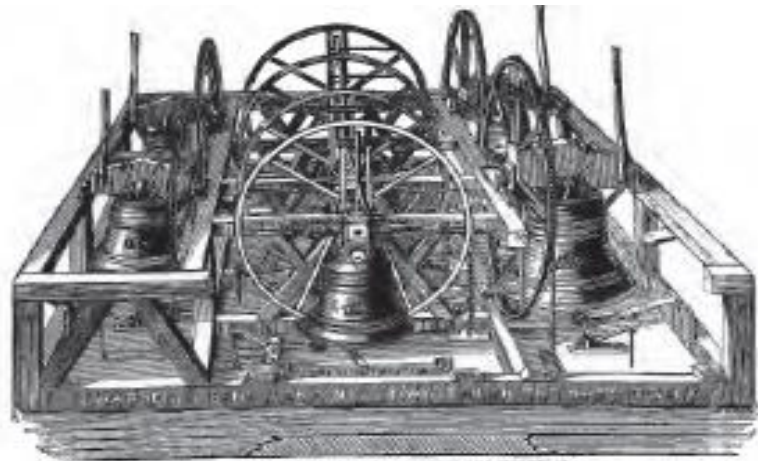
In January 1869 Charles Dickens attended a ringing practice and published an account in the 27 February edition of his weekly journal *All the Year Round*. He observed '*As we go, the tenor's voice becomes louder and louder, and the ladder and walls shake more and more, until at last, as we are going to step onto the platform of the bells, we shrink back as from a blow, from the stunning clash of sound with which he greets us*'.

During the early part of the Second World War, the bells were lowered to the ground and stored in the South transept as a precaution. Happily, the cathedral escaped major damage from enemy action. After the war, the bells were cleaned, tuned and re-hung with new fittings. This work was financed by the Friends of Southwark Cathedral. In 1965, the six smallest bells were fitted with cast iron headstocks and new independent staples were fitted to all the clappers. All these various works have been carried out by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. A sharp 2nd bell was cast and installed by Hayward Mills Associates in May 2005 in memory of James G A Prior.

An appeal was launched in 2015 to raise £200,000 for a restoration of the ring. Both the tenor and 7th bells were recast, the bells lowered from the tower and removed for cleaning, with fittings overhauled and replaced where required. The frame was also found to move within itself but only limited strengthening could take place owing to its historic nature.

Details of the twelve bells are:

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Founder
Treble	1735	7-0-24	F	Samuel Knight
2	1735	7-1-25	Eb	Samuel Knight
2#	2005	7-2-19	E	Hayward Mills Associates
3	1735	7-2-2	D	Samuel Knight
4	1735	8-3-17	C	Samuel Knight
5	1735	9-2-17	Bb	Samuel Knight
6	1735	10-3-13	A	Samuel Knight
former 7	1931	10-3-5	G	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
new 7	2016	13-0-0	G	Whitechapel
8	1735	15-1-22	F	Samuel Knight
9	1735	17-2-23	Eb	Samuel Knight
10	1844	22-3-9	D	Charles & George Mears (Whitechapel)
11	1820	30-2-9	C	Thomas Mearns II (Whitechapel)
former Tenor	1911	48-2-9	Bb	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
New Tenor	2016	48-3-1	Bb	Whitechapel
Santus (St Peter)	1839	5-3-8	C	Thomas Mearns II (Whitechapel)

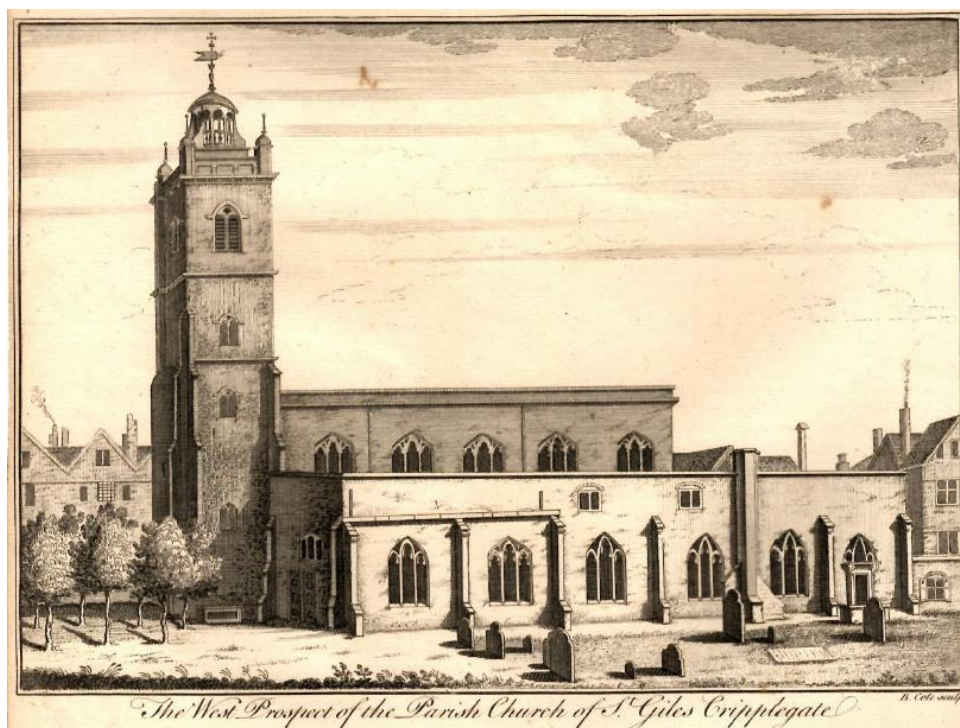


Twelve members of the ASCY ringing at St Saviours about 1860 taken from First Steps to Bell Ringing by S B Gosling. Illustrations show bells in both the 'down position' (left) before being raised to the 'up position' (right)

(vii) St Giles without Cripplegate, London

When built the church stood without (that is, outside) the Roman Wall of the City near the Cripplegate. It is dedicated to St Giles, the patron saint of lepers, beggars and the handicapped and is one of the few medieval churches left in the City of London, having survived the Great Fire of 1666. There had been a Saxon church on the site in the 11th century but by 1090 it had been replaced by a Norman one. In 1394 it was rebuilt in the perpendicular gothic style. The stone tower was added in 1682.

The church has been badly damaged by fire on three occasions - in 1545, in 1897 and during the Blitz in 1940 when it was completely gutted. It was restored using the plans of the reconstruction of 1545.

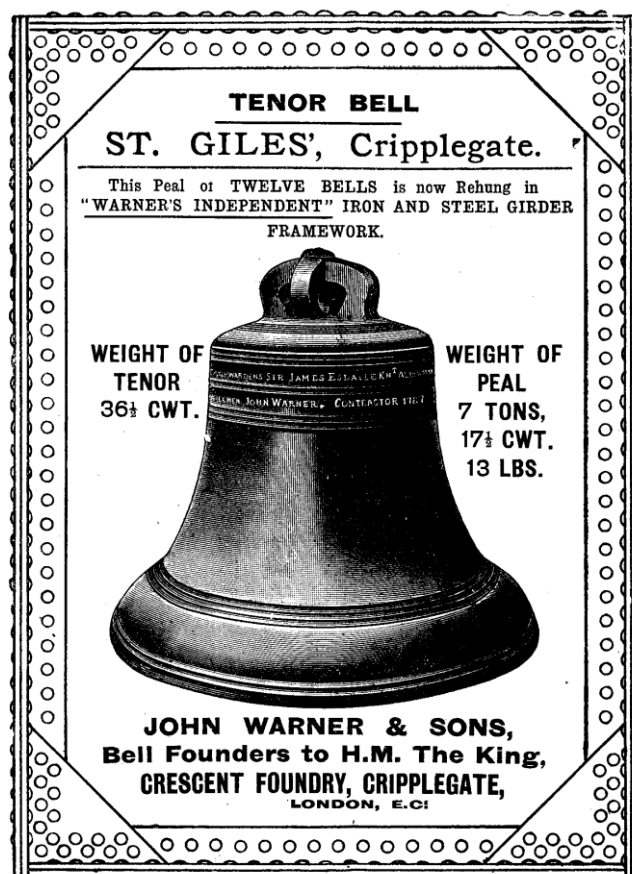


Taken from *The History of London from its Foundation by the Romans to the present time With several accounts of Westminster, Middlesex, Southwark, and other parts within the Bill of Mortality* by William Maitland. Published in a number of editions (1st 1739, 2nd 1756 in two volumes, 3rd 1700, 4th edition 1769, with an enlarged edition by John Entick 1775. Engraving shown by Benjamin Cole

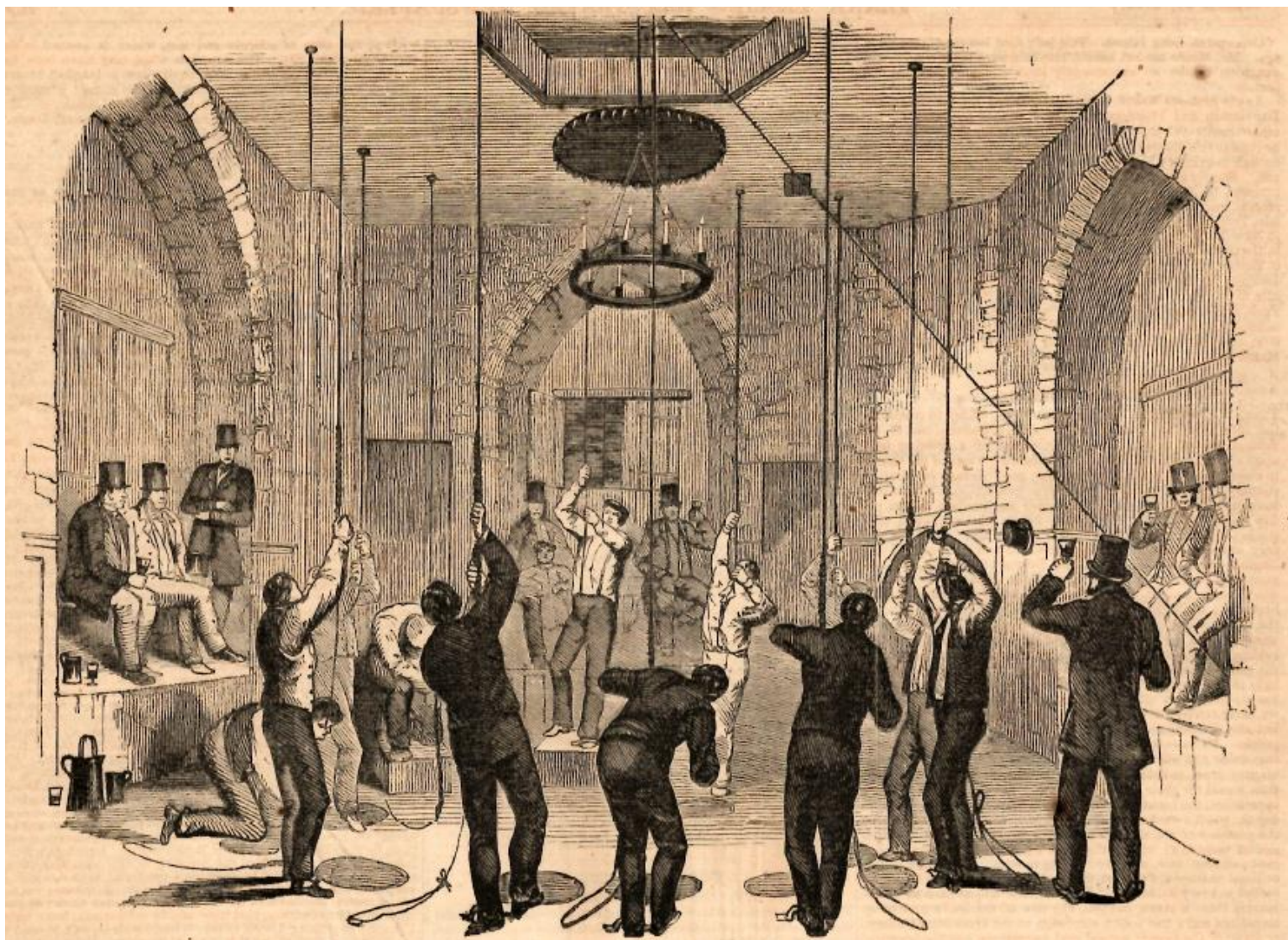
There have a number of changes to the ring of bells at the church over the years. These have involved the recasting of certain bells, as well as the addition of bells to augment the ring. They were a ring of 5 bells by 1579, augmented to 6 bells in 1631, 8 bells in 1668, before being completely recast by Pack & Chapman in 1772 to create a new ring of 10 bells. Two further bells were added in 1792 to create a ring of 12 bells.

A new ring of twelve bells was cast by Mears and Stainbank in 1954 following the destruction of the earlier ring in 1940, and this ring was augmented with a sharp second bell cast in 2006 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Founder
Treble	2006	5-1-2	A#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
2 nd	1954	5-2-7	G#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
2#	1954	5-2-12	F#	Whitechapel
3 rd	1954	5-3-0	E#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
4 th	1954	6-3-4	D#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
5 th	1954	7-3-27	C#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
6 th	1954	7-3-24	B#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
7 th	1954	9-0-2	A#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
8 th	1954	11-0-5	G#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
9 th	1954	14-2-6	F#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
10 th	1954	17-2-18	E#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
11 th	1954	24-0-17	D#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
Tenor	1954	34-0-6	C#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)



Advert for John Warner & Sons which appeared in the *Bell News and Ringers Record* (Volume 28, 1909) after they had recast the 2nd bell of the ring and then rehung the other bells in a new frame in the tower



Ringling Out the Old Year in the Belfry of Cripplegate Church, London taken from *The Illustrated Historic Times*, 4 January 1850 p1; also repeated in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 27 March 1858, page 268 (23.0cm by 17.0cm)



CHRISTMAS BELLS: INTERIOR OF THE BELFRY OF CRIPPLEGATE CHURCH.—(DRAWN BY J. PALMER.)

Christmas Bells: Interior of the Belfry of Cripplegate Church by John Palmer. Source unknown

(viii) St Sepulchre without Newgate, London

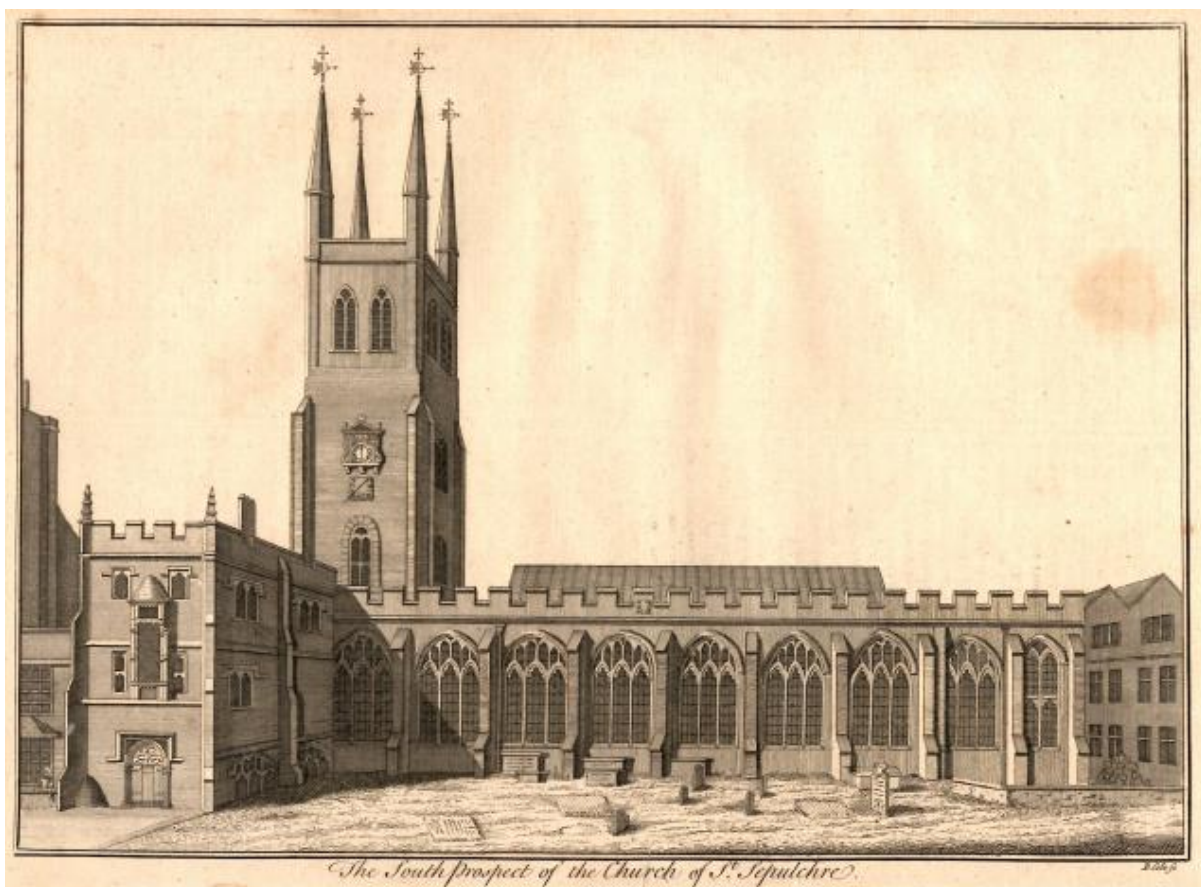
Despite the Great Fire of London in 1666, which destroyed 89 parish churches in the City, change ringing appears to have continued to flourish there immediately afterwards. This may have been aided by the publication of the first book on change ringing, *Tintinnalogia* by Richard Duckworth in 1668 followed by Fabian Stedman's book, *Campanalogia, or the Art of Ringing Improved* in 1677 (see Chapter 16). Although St Sepulchre was gutted by the Great Fire the neighbouring church of St Andrew Holborn escaped the Fire allowing local ringing societies such as the Society of College Youths to continue their ringing practices on eight bells.

St Sepulchre's seems to have been a favourite tower with the bells being augmented to a ring of eight bells in 1671. A few years later in 1678 they were further augmented to a ring

of ten bells becoming the City of London's first ring of ten bells, apart from St Mary-le-Bow which had been completely destroyed by the Great Fire.

The Society of College Youths first Copy Peal Book created around 1845 includes an historical account of the Society which was pulled together from various sources, including the *Oxford Ringers' Register Book* which dates to around 1738 but unfortunately has since been lost. Of considerable interest is an entry which states '*On January 7 1689-90, the whole peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at St Sepulchre's without Newgate, in 3 hours and forty five minutes, (and the first trial) being the first 5040 that was ever rung*'. If true, this may represent the first recorded peal although unfortunately no ringers' names or further details are given.

St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, also known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, is located on the flanks of Holborn Viaduct almost opposite the Central Criminal Court better known as the Old Bailey. In medieval times it stood just outside (hence the without) the now-demolished old City wall near the Newgate.



South prospect of St Sepulchre taken from *The History of London from its Foundation by the Romans to the present time ... with several accounts of Westminster, Middlesex, Southwark, and other parts within the Bill of Mortality* by William Maitland. Engraved by Benjamin Cole

The original Saxon church on the site was dedicated to St Edmund the King and Martyr and was part of the Priory of St Bartholomew from 1137. During the Crusades in the 12th century the church was renamed St Edmund and the Holy Sepulchre, in reference to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, by soldiers who passed by the church on the way to the Holy Lands. The name eventually became contracted to St Sepulchre.

On surrender of the Priory of St Bartholomew to the Crown in 1539, six of the eleven bells were sold to St Sepulchre leaving the five bells at the Priory church that remain there to this day. It is thought this early ring had at least in part been cast by Thomas Bullisdon around 1510. The ring of six bells cast for St Sepulchre's church after the Great Fire included three bells known to have been cast by John Hodson of Bishopsgate in 1667. This ring was augmented by two trebles added in 1671, then to a ring of ten bells in 1678 with all the additional bells being cast by Michael Darbie. Finally the ring of ten was itself recast by Samuel Knight in 1739 with a tenor weight of 31cwt.

An interesting extract from the *Standard* newspaper Tuesday 10 Nov 1829, records a '*CURIOUS ACCIDENT. - Yesterday afternoon, while the ten bells in the tower of St Sepulchre's Church, Snow-hill, were ringing a merry peal, as the Lord Mayor's precession was passing, the tenor, or great bell, weighing 3,300 lbs. fell out of its hangings, with a most tremendous crash into the pit beneath, to the great alarm of the ringers, who were three floors under, and who were shook as if by an earthquake. The accident was caused by the gudgeons by which the bell was suspended giving way, owing to their having been worn by constant friction, for nearly two centuries. The most singular part of the accident is, that the crown and upper part of the bell are completely severed from the remaining part as if cut with a knife, notwithstanding its great thickness. The bell was remarkable for its fine sonorous tone, and for its having for many years been tolled on the morning of the execution of criminals at the Old Bailey, a practice only lately discontinued. It is now of course rendered useless, and a new tenor must be cast for the peal. No blame whatsoever attaches to the ringers, who were ringing in the most skilful manner at the time, the celebrated Whittington Change, in honour of the lord Mayor. The bell would have inevitably fallen through the floors into the rope-room, and caused the destruction of the ringers, but for the stout oaken timbers under it. As it is, the ringers consider they have had a most miraculous escape from death.*'

Recasting of certain bells took place at different times thereafter, but the ring of ten bells had largely become redundant during the 20th century. Following a clean-up and some maintenance work in 1979 the ring of ten bells were able to be rung again. It was decided to have all the bells except the tenor recast and augmented into a new ring of twelve bells, hung in a new frame housed underneath the old frame which remains in situ. This restoration project was completed during 1984.

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Founder
Treble	1984	6-0-16	G#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
2 nd	1984	6-2-0	F#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
3 rd	1984	6-2-10	E#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
4 th	1984	5-2-26	D#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
5 th	1984	6-2-7	C#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
6 th	1984	7-0-12	B#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
7 th	1984	8-1-6	A#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
8 th	1984	10-2-25	G#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
9 th	1984	12-1-22	F#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
10 th	1984	13-3-15	E#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
11 th	1984	17-3-6	D#	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
Tenor	1830	28-2-16	C#	Thomas Mears II, Whitechapel

The tower also has a Sanctus bell cast in 1698 by William Eldridge.



In 1605, London merchant tailor Mr. John Dowe paid the parish £50 to buy a hand bell on the condition that it would be rung to mark the execution of a prisoner at the nearby gallows. This hand bell, known as the Execution Bell, now resides in a glass case in the south nave.

Between the 17th and 19th centuries, the clerk of St Sepulchre's was responsible for ringing the hand bell outside the condemned man's cell in Newgate Prison, which occupied the site across the road

prior to the building of the Central Criminal Court, the night before his execution and announcing the news by repeating the following advice:

*All you that in the condemned hold do lie,
Prepare you, for to-morrow you shall die;
Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near
That you before the Almighty must appear;
Examine well yourselves, in time repent,
That you may not to eternal flames be sent.
And when St Sepulchre's bell to-morrow tolls,
The Lord above have mercy on your souls.
Past twelve o'clock!*

On the day of the execution, the tower bells were tolled as condemned prisoners were led from Newgate Prison to Tyburn Gallows, located at what is now known as Marble Arch. They were usually taken there by an open horse-drawn cart and the route was often lined by spectators who were known to have jeered and thrown rotten fruit and vegetables at the condemned during the journey. It was customary for the cart to stop at the Bowl Inn, near to St Giles-in-the-Fields, Holborn where the prisoners were allowed a final drink. The driver though was expected not to partake and it is thought the 'expression on the waggon' may have originated from this ritual.

(ix) St Clement Danes, Westminster

The church is situated outside the Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand. Although the first church on the site was reputedly founded in the 9th century by the Danes, the current building was completed in 1682 by Sir Christopher Wren. The building was gutted during the Blitz in 1941 and not restored until 1958, when it was adapted to its current function as the central church of the Royal Air Force.



St Clement Danes Church engraved by T. Higham from a drawing by W. Morland. Taken from *Walks through London*, published by W. Clarke, New Bond Street, 1 May 1817.

The tower by James Gibbs was not added until 1720. It originally had a ring of eight bells as recorded on a brass plaque in the porch *'The eight bells in this steeple were cast by Will. & Phill. Wightman, their Majesties Founders, Anno Dni. 1694, in the Tyme of Wm. Davis and Edwd. Clarke, and finished when Edwd. Clarke and Hugh Mills were Churchwardens. Weight 4t. 15c. 2q. 8l. The gift of Edwd. Clarke'*. The 3rd was recast by C Oliver in 1843 and two trebles added a year later by the same founder to create a ring of ten bells.

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Founder
Treble	1844	4-1-0	G	C Oliver
2 nd	1844	5-2-0	F	C Oliver
3 rd	1693	5-3-0	Eb	W & P Wightman
4 th	1693	6-2-0	D	W & P Wightman
5 th	1843	7-1-0	C	C Oliver
6 th	1693	9-0-0	Bb	W & P Wightman
7 th	1693	11-3-0	Ab	W & P Wightman
8 th	1693	12-2-0	G	W & P Wightman
9 th	1693	20-0-0	F	W & P Wightman
Tenor	1693	25-0-0	Eb	W & P Wightman

In 1919 the bells were retuned and rehung in a new steel frame and dedicated on 17 July by the General-Chaplain of the Forces, in the presence of Queen Alexandra. They had been silent for seven years owing to the poor state of the frame. In those days the bells were rung from the first level (i.e. two levels down from the present ringing room). The bell chamber was on the 5th level.

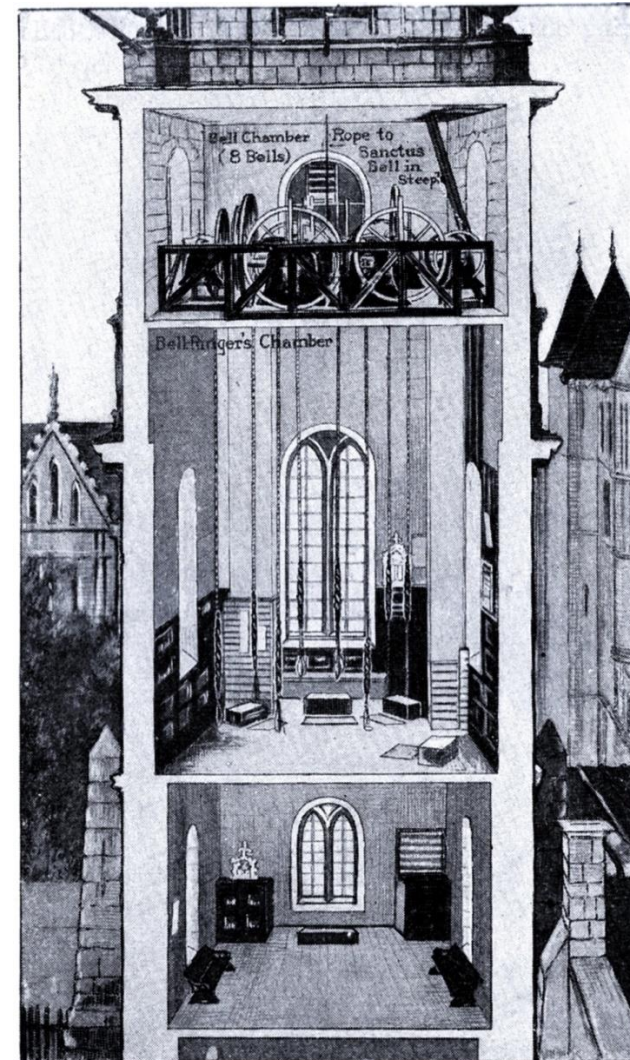
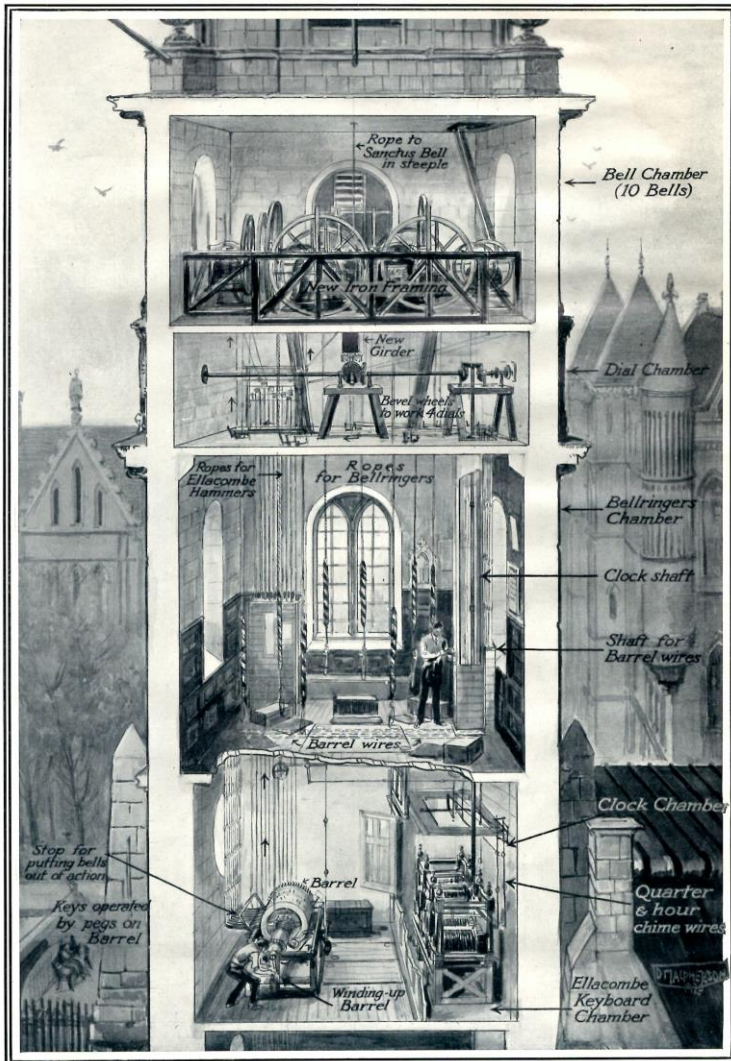
On 10 May 1941 the church was almost destroyed by bombing and the bells were damaged. They were taken down from the burnt out tower and stored in the porch ready to be taken away for safe keeping, but were then destroyed by a further attack. The remains were stored in a brick shed pending recasting. A new ring of 10 bells was cast by Mears & Stainbank at Whitechapel in 1955. This ring of bells included a semitone bell hung dead and used by the carillon. The bells were hung in a new cast iron frame in the tower by Whitechapel who also installed the carillon. The clock was installed by Thwaites and Reed. The bells were brought down 1 level (to Level 4) and the new ringing room was brought up 2 levels to Level 3.

The tenor sustained damage when being rung by the tolling hammer. A lump was knocked from the lip of the bell and the bell cracked in the crown. Repairs were carried out but over succeeding years the crack travelled from the crown of the bell and over the shoulder. It was recast in 1979.

Bell	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Founder
Treble	1955	4-1-8	G#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
2 nd	1955	4-2-10	F#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
3 rd	1955	5-1-23	E	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
4 th	1955	5-3-3	D#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
5 th	1955	6-0-6	C#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
6 th	1955	7-1-15	B	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
7 th	1955	9-1-19	A	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
8 th	1955	10-1-14	G#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
9 th	1955	14-0-27	F#	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
Tenor	1979	21-1-23	E	Whitechapel

Former tenor	1955	21-1-17	E	Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel)
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Santus	1588	2-2-19	E	Robert Mot
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The Bells of St Clements – a cross section of the ring of the tower showing the bells, belfry and lower room. The print above, taken from *The Sphere* (10 April 1920, page 39) shows an Ellacombe chiming apparatus on the ground floor while the image opposite (source unknown) has a different ground floor configuration (20.8cm by 30.3cm)

The church is sometimes claimed to be the one featured in the nursery rhyme *Oranges and Lemons* and the bells do indeed play that tune. However, St Clements Eastcheap also claims to be the church from the rhyme. The rhyme is a traditional English folksong, and singing game, which refers to the bells of several churches, all within or close to the City of London.

The Lyrics are:

Oranges and lemons,
Say the bells of St Clements.

You owe me three farthings,
Say the bells of St Martins.

When will you pay me?
Say the bells at Old Bailey.

When I grow rich,
Say the bells at Shoreditch.

When will that be?
Say the bells of Stepney.

I do not know,
Says the great bell at Bow.

Here comes a candle to light you to bed,
And here comes a chopper to chop off your
head!

Chip chop chip chop the last man is dead.

As expected, alternative versions are known including:

Gay go up, and gay go down,
To ring the bells of London town.

Bull's eyes and targets,
Say the bells of St. Margret's.

Brickbats and tiles,
Say the bells of St Giles'.

Halfpence and Farthings, ,
Say the bells of St Martin's.

Oranges and lemons,
Say the bells of St Clements.

Pancakes and fritters,
Say the bells of St. Peter's.

Two sticks and an apple,
Say the bells at Whitechapel.

Pokers and tongs,
Say the bells at St. John's.

Kettles and pans,
Say the bells at St. Ann's.

Old Father Baldpate,
Say the slow bells at Aldgate.

Maids in white Aprons
Say the bells of St Catherine's.

You owe me ten shillings,
Say the bells of St Helen's.

When will you pay me?
Say the bells at Old Bailey.

When I grow rich,
Say the bells at Shoreditch.

Pray when will that be?
Say the bells of Stepney.

I'm sure I don't know,
Says the great bell at Bow.

Here comes a candle to light you to bed,
And here comes a chopper to chop off your
head.

The song is used in a children's singing game with the same name, in which the players file, in pairs, through an arch made by two of the players (made by having the players face each other, raise their arms over their head, and clasp their partners' hands). The challenge comes during the final lines:

Here comes a candle to light you to bed.
Here comes a chopper to chop off your head.
(Chip chop, chip chop, the last man's dead.)

On the last word, the children forming the arch drop their arms to catch the pair of children currently passing through, who are then 'out and must form another arch next to the existing one. In this way, the series of arches becomes a steadily lengthening tunnel through which each set of two players has to run faster and faster to escape in time.

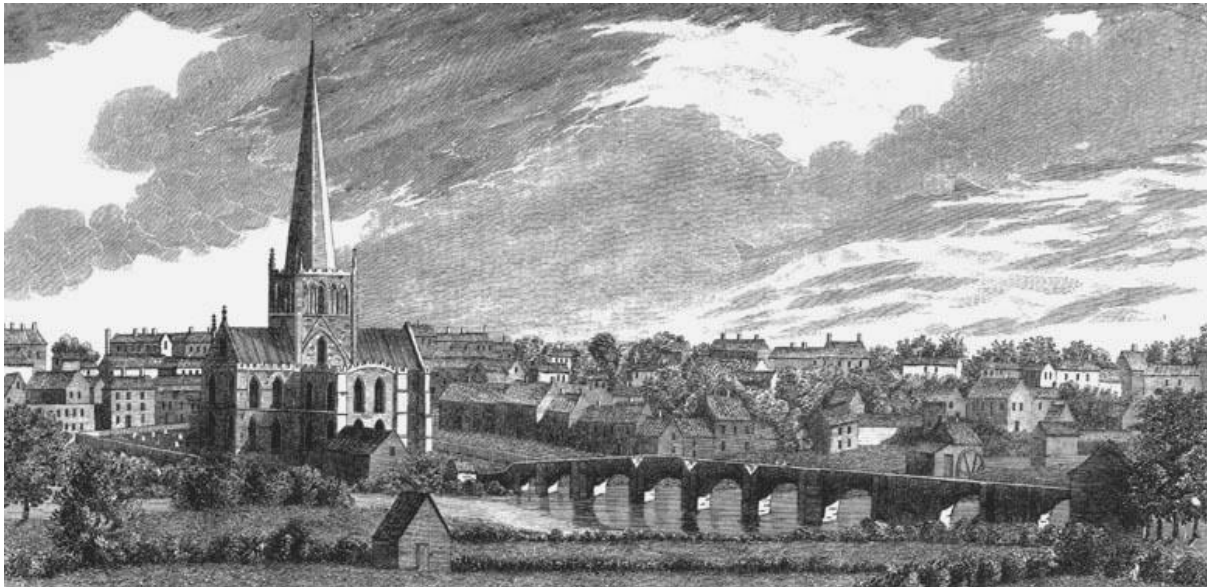
Oranges and Lemons was also the name of a square-four-eight-dance, published in Playford's, *Dancing Master* in 1665 (at a time when the plague was endemic and periodically erupted into massive epidemics, as in 1603, 1625, 1636 and the Great Plague of London in 1665-1666, when an estimated 100,000 people – almost a quarter of London's population – died within a period of 18 months), but it is not clear if this relates to this rhyme. Similar rhymes naming churches and giving rhymes to their names can be found in other parts of England, including Shropshire and Derby, where they were sung on festival days, on which bells would also have been rung.



Traditional London nursery rhyme taken from *Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book* (Vol 2) 1744, pages 50 & 51. Refers to part of the full Oranges and Lemons nursery rhyme.

(x) St Cuthbert, Darlington

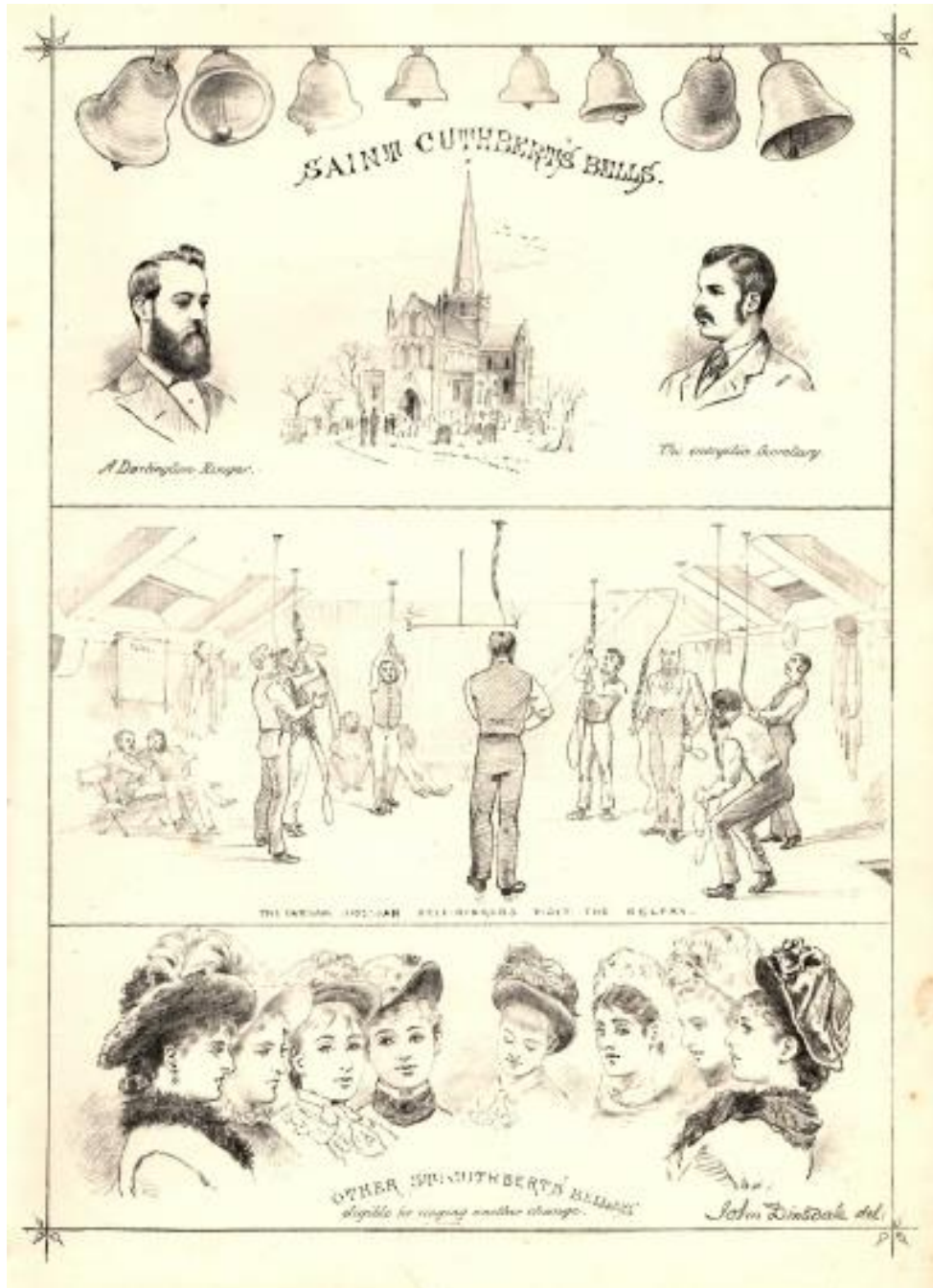
The church dates from the early 13th century. The church became collegiate when Richard Whitton was appointed by the Bishop of Durham as the first Dean of Darlington in 1439. To support the Dean, there were four Prebendaries - Cockerton, Newton, Blakwell and Darlington. The college survived until 1550 when it was dissolved. The crossing tower was rebuilt in 1752 following a lightning strike on the spire on 17 July 1750.



Source not known

A major restoration was undertaken in 1864-65 by the architects George Gilbert Scott of London and James Pigott Pritchett of Darlington. The estimated costs of the works were £1,590 and the 3rd Duke of Cleveland gave £500 towards the restoration. The work involved removal of the galleries and ceilings, the opening out of the gable windows in the nave and transepts, the rearranging of the pews, and the replacing of several stalls which had been destroyed. The organ was restored and the bells in the tower were recast. The church was reopened for worship in 14 December 1865.

The tower originally housed a mixed ring of 6 bells. Three of the bells were recast in 1865 and two trebles added by John Warner & Sons the following year to create an octave. The whole ring was recast in 1937 by Gillett & Johnston to create a new octave with tenor weighing 17 cwt.



They Ring a Joyous Peal, Wishing a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, source unknown (25.0cm by 34.7cm)

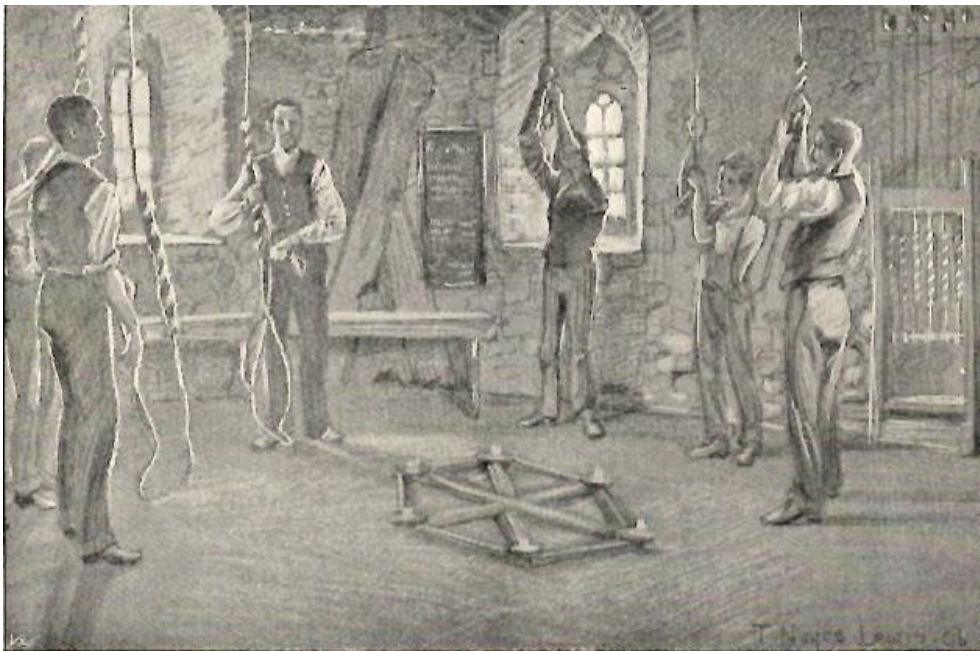
(xi) Monken Hadley, Middlesex

The church was built in its present form in 1494 (the date being carved in stone over the west door) possibly after incurring damage during the battle of Barnet in 1471. A church is believed to have stood on the site for over 800 years. The present building is in the perpendicular style and includes two side chapels in the transepts dedicated to St Anne and St Catherine. The building was heavily renovated by the architect G E Street in Victorian times, and contains large quantities of Victorian woodwork furniture. The parish and church were heavily influenced by the Oxford Movement.



St Mary, Monken Hadley – 1807 print

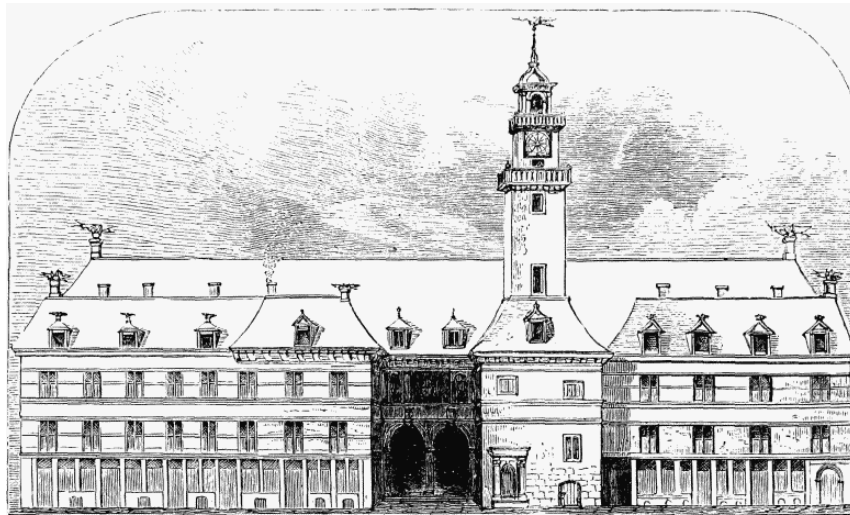
The tower of the church contains nine bells with eight being hung for change ringing, and the ninth as a santus bell. At the top of the tower there is a signal beacon, part of an ancient series of signal beacons. The church markets itself under the title "The Beacon Church".



Ringling a Wedding Peal at Monken-Hadley, Middlesex taken from *The Windsor Magazine*, 1897, page 122 (12.5cm by 8.2cm).

(xii) Royal Exchange, London

The Royal Exchange in London was founded in the 16th century by the merchant Sir Thomas Gresham as a centre of commerce. The site was provided by the City of London Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Mercers who still jointly own the freehold. The building's original design was inspired by a bourse Thomas Gresham had seen in Antwerp and was Britain's first specialist commercial building.



The first Royal Exchange building

The new Exchange, like the nave of St. Paul's, soon became a resort for idlers. In the 1574 book of Cornhill Ward by Burgon it says that on Sundays and holidays great numbers of young rogues *'meet there, and shout and holloa, so that honest citizens cannot quietly walk there for their recreation, and the parishioners of St. Bartholomew could not hear the sermon'*. The building however, badly and hastily built, began to fall into disrepair.

It has twice been destroyed by fire and subsequently rebuilt. In 1665, during the Plague, great fires were made at the north and south entrances of the Exchange, to purify the air. The stoppage of public business was so complete that grass grew within the building, Samuel Pepys' mentioning that having visited the Exchange was *'how sad a sight it is to see the streets empty of people, and very few upon the 'Change, jealous of every door that one sees shut up, lest it should be the Plague, and about us two shops in three, if not more, generally shut up'*.

In Wren's great scheme for rebuilding London, he proposed to make the Royal Exchange the central focus of London, from where sixty-foot wide streets would radiate like spokes in a huge wheel. The Exchange was to stand free, in the middle of a great piazza, and was to have double porticoes, similar to the original Forum in Rome. Evelyn wished the new building to be at Queenhithe nearer the water-side, but eventually both his and Wren's plan

fell through. Mr Jerman, one of the City surveyors, undertook the design for a new building, the foundation stone being laid on the 6th of May, 1667.



The second Royal Exchange building

The clock of the second Exchange, set up by Edward Stanton, under the direction of Dr Hooke, had chimes with four bells, playing six, and latterly seven tunes.

The present building was designed by Sir William Tite in the 1840s and occupied by the Lloyd's insurance market for nearly 150 years. Today the Royal Exchange contains a Courtyard Grand Cafe, Threadneedle Cocktail Bar, Sauterelle Restaurant, luxury shops, and offices.

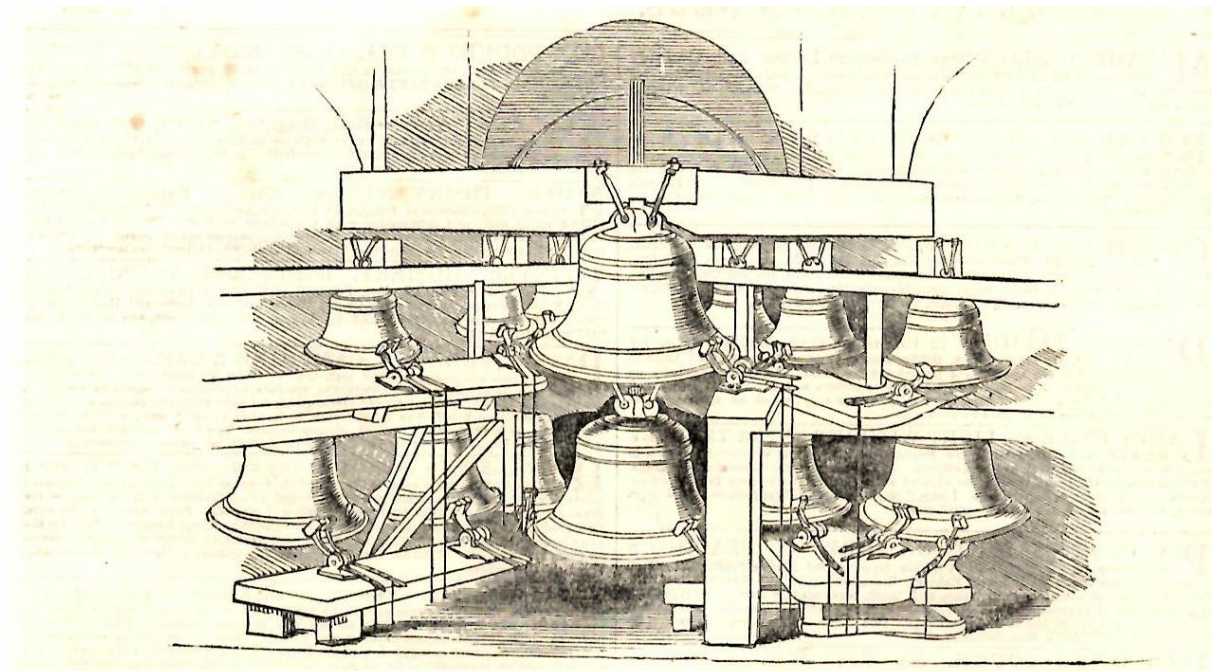


The present Royal Exchange building

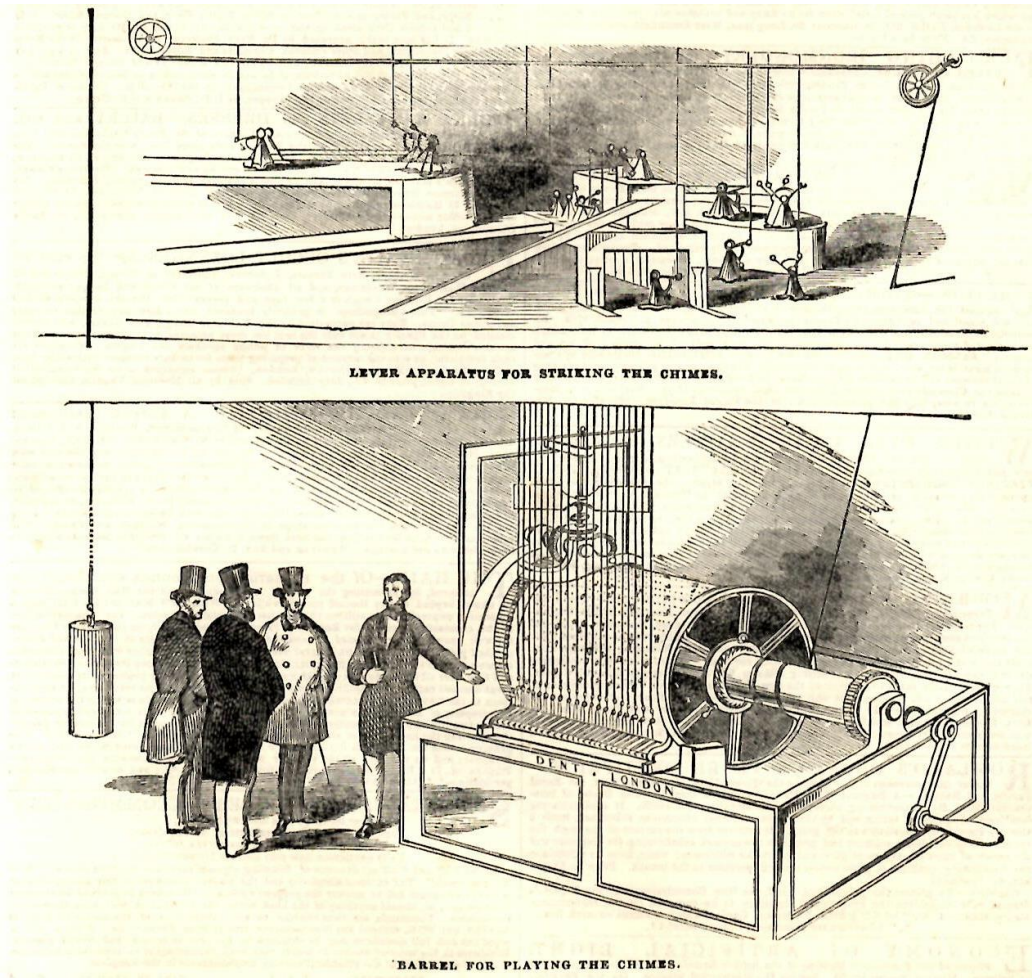
The current clock, constructed by Dent, with the assistance of the Astronomer Royal, has a compensation pendulum giving great accuracy. The chimes consist of a set of fifteen bells, cast by Thomas Mears (Whitechapel) at a cost £500. The key in which the bells are set is E flat with a total weigh of 131 cwt and one quarter.

The largest bell is the hour-bell of the clock. In the chime-work there are two hammers to several of the bells to allow rapid play with three and five hammers able to strike different bells simultaneously. All irregularity of force is avoided by driving the chime-barrel through wheels and pinions. There are no wheels between the weight that pulls and the hammer to be raised. The lifts on the chime-barrel are all epicycloidal curves; and there are 6,000 holes pierced upon the barrel for the lifts, so as to allow the tunes to be varied.

The present tunes are *God save the Queen*, *The Roast Beef of Old England*, *Rule Britannia* and the *104th Psalm*.



Bells for the Hour and Chimes taken from *The Illustrated London News*, 2 November 1844, page 288 (13.0cm by 8.5cm)



Lever Apparatus for Striking the Chimes / Barrel for Playing the Chimes, taken from *The Illustrated London News*, 2 November 1844, page 288 (15.0cm by 15.0cm)

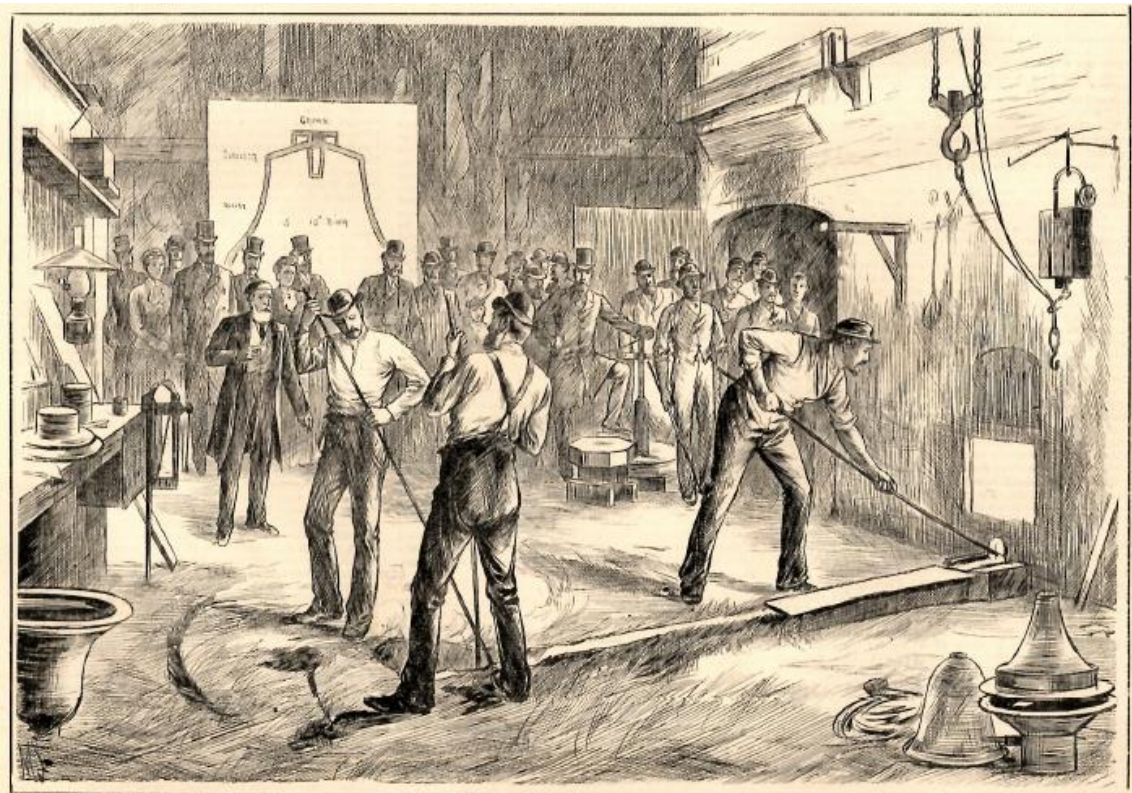
(xiii) Royal Courts of Justice, London

The Royal Courts of Justice, better known as the Law Courts, include the High Court and Court of Appeal of England and Wales. The High Court also sits on circuit and in other major cities. Designed by George Edmund Street, who died before it was completed, it is a large grey stone edifice in the Victorian Gothic style built in the 1870s and opened by Queen Victoria in 1882.

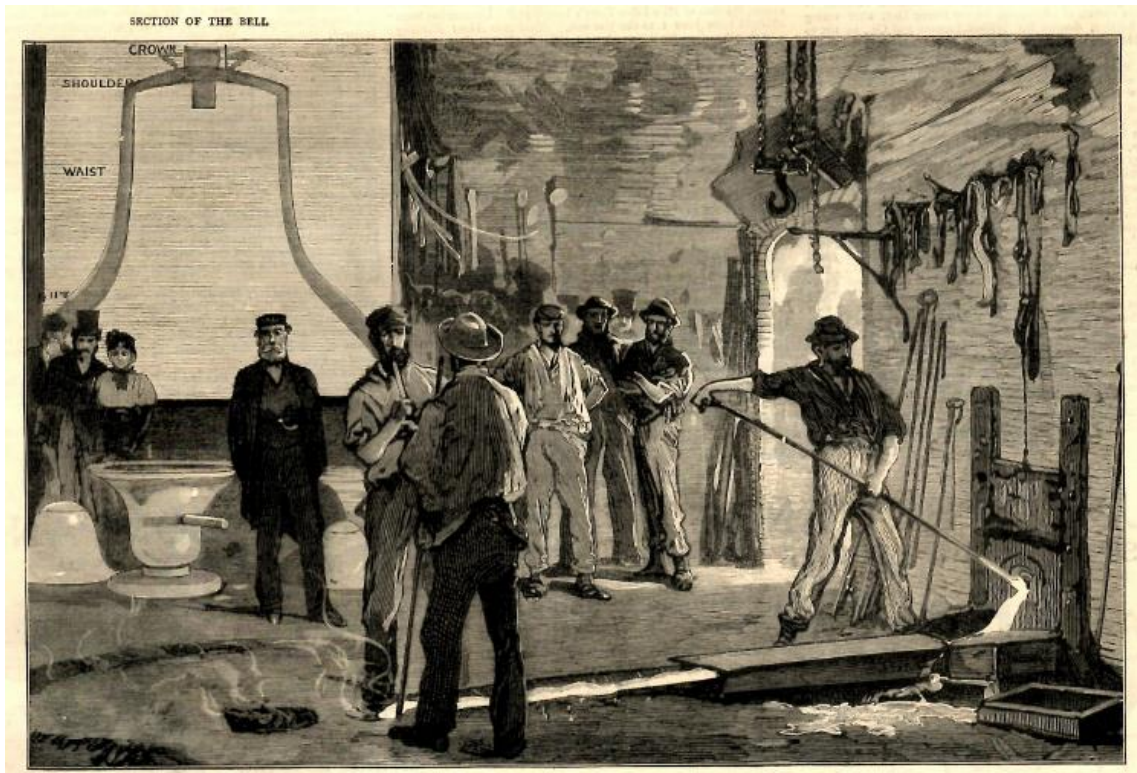
The courts within the building are generally open to the public with some access restrictions depending upon the nature of the cases being heard. Those in court who do not have legal representation may receive some assistance within the building. A Citizens Advice Bureau is based in the Main Hall which provides free, confidential and impartial advice by appointment to litigants-in person. There is also an office of the Personal Support Unit where litigants-in-person can receive emotional support and practical information about court proceedings.



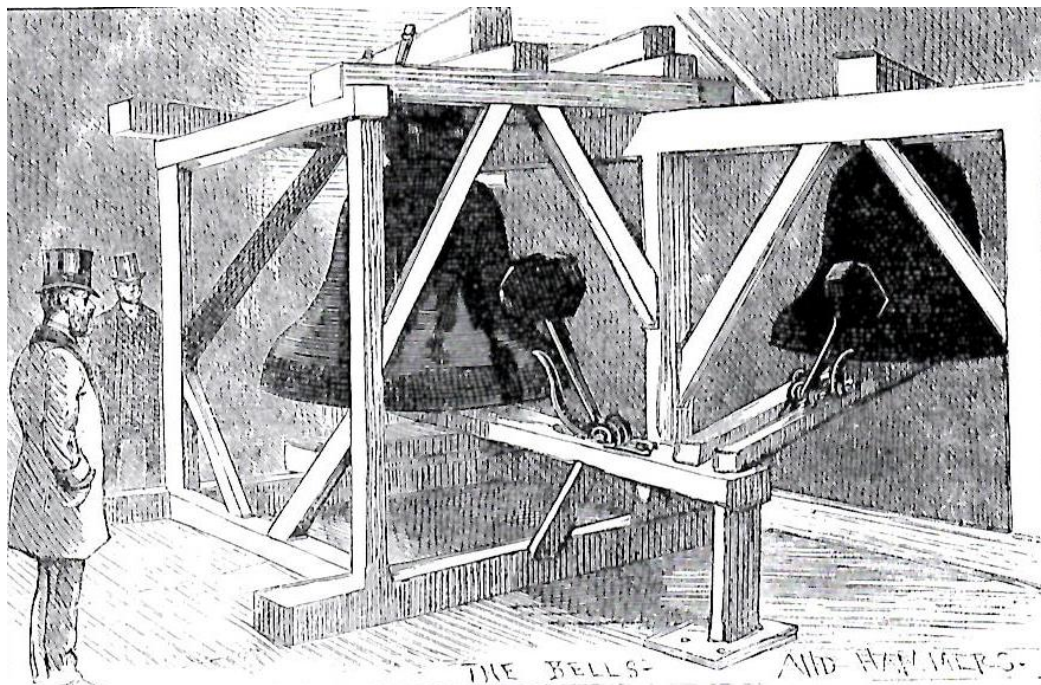
They are situated at the east end of the Strand in the City of Westminster. The Central Criminal Court, widely known as the Old Bailey after its street, is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (0.8 km) further east in the City of London. The bells are clock rather than change ringing bells.



Casting the Large Bell for the Royal Courts of Justice taken from *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 19 May 1883, page 237 (24.2cm by 17.0cm)



Casting the new Tenor Bell for the Royal Courts of Justice – Running the metal into the Mould, taken from *The Graphic*, 26 May 1883, page 533 (23.0cm by 15.5cm)



The Clock and Bells at the Royal Courts of Justice taken from *The Illustrated London News*, 29 December 1883, page not given (11.2cm by 7.4cm)

(xiv) Queen's Tower, Imperial College, London

The Queen's Tower is all that remains of the Imperial Institute, which was built to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. The Imperial Institute was designed by T E Collcutt in the neo-renaissance style. It was 700 feet long with a central tower (Queen's Tower) and smaller towers at the east and west ends. It contained a library, laboratories, conference rooms and exhibition galleries with gardens at the rear. Construction work took six years and the Institute was opened in 1893. Between 1902 and 1953, the Imperial Institute was the subject of various committees of enquiry and changes of administration. At various times the Board of Trade, the Colonial Office, the Department of Overseas Trade and Ministry of Education all ran the Institute. In 1953 the government announced the scheme for the expansion of Imperial College and by 1956 it was public knowledge that this would involve the demolition of the Imperial Institute. Queen's Tower only was saved following a campaign led by Sir John Betjeman. Between 1966 and 1968, work was carried out to enable the central tower to stand on its own. This involved creating massive foundations and then substantially rebuilding the lower portion of the tower.



Front View of the Imperial Institute taken from *The Sketch*, 10 May 1893, page 84 (12.3cm by 12.0cm)

The belfry contains the Alexandra Peal of 10 bells. These were a gift to the Prince of Wales from Mrs Elizabeth M Millar of Melbourne, Australia in 1892. Each bell is separately named after members of the Royal family - Queen Victoria, her three sons, her daughter-in-law Alexandra, and her five grandchildren. Being free standing, the tower still moves when change ringing takes place, making these a far from easy ring of bells.

Bell	Name	Date	Weight (cwt-qrt-lb)	Note	Founder
Treble	Maud	1892	6-2-16	F	John Taylor & Co
2 nd	Victoria	1892	7-2-21	E _β	John Taylor & Co
3 rd	Louise	1892	8-1-5	D _β	John Taylor & Co
4 th	George	1892	9-0-19	C	John Taylor & Co
5 th	Albert Victor	1892	10-3-14	B _β	John Taylor & Co
6 th	Arthur	1892	13-1-18	A _β	John Taylor & Co
7 th	Alfred	1892	16-2-19	G _β	John Taylor & Co
8 th	Alexandra	1892	20-2-24	F	John Taylor & Co
9 th	Albert Edward	1892	27-0-0	E _β	John Taylor & Co
Tenor	Victoria R. I.	1892	38-1-15	D _β	John Taylor & Co



THE "VICTORIA" BELL
Weighing 7 cwt. 2 qrs. 23 lbs.



THE "ALEXANDRA" PEAL OF BELLS PRESENTED TO THE PRINCE OF WALES BY MRS. E. M. MILLAR, OF MELBOURNE



THE "ARTHUR" BELL
Weighing 13 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs.

The Imperial Institute Bells

BY FREDERICK J. CROVIST

THE new peal of bells at the Imperial Institute is a distinct artistic gain to London, since they are as perfect a set of bells as has been swung in the metropolis for many a long year. The hearts of all lovers of bell-music, especially, will rejoice for the opportunity this peal affords of hearing bells as they should be heard. Our capital has many good bells, but the fault in nearly all London bells is that they are too low. To this disadvantage may be attributed much of the want of sympathy that exists in what is a matter of real beauty, and which might prove, if understood, a source of real enjoyment. I am aware that bell-music is not by all considered as an altogether unmixt blessing, but many hearts will be turned when this new peal is heard—under conditions which alone are essential to a favourable appreciation of the campanologist's art.

The tower in which they have been silently waiting to send forth their first joyous message is 300 feet high. It looks down upon the tops of the Albert Hall, the Natural History Museum, and other stately buildings; so the bells' tones are not likely soon to be seriously interfered with by the encroachments of bricklayers. These new bells are at a higher altitude than any other peal of bells in the United Kingdom, being swung in a chamber 200 feet above the level of the ground-floor of the building; and their tones, instead of clashing one with the other and their harmonies becoming hopelessly intermixed, will dissolve with exquisite effect in the surrounding air.

As has already been publicly stated, the peal is the Jubilee gift of an Australian lady, Mrs. E. M. Millar, of Melbourne, to the Prince of Wales. It consists of ten bells, named after the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales and their children, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Connaught. An inscription on the eighth bell sets forth that the bells are to be known as the "Alexandra" peal. This lettering reads as follows:—"The peal of which this bell forms one was, by the special permission of the Princess of Wales, named after Her Royal Highness." The largest bell is the tenor, swung in the centre of the frame, with her—all bells are properly feminine—satellites round her. She bears the inscription "Victoria R.I., 1837-1887."

The following is a list of the bells forming the peal, with their measurements, notes, weights, and names:—

Bell	Diameter	Musical Note	Weight			Name
			cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	
Treble	8 1/2	F	6	2	16	Maud
2 nd	8 5/8	E flat	7	2	21	Victoria
3 rd	9	D flat	8	1	5	Louise
4 th	9 1/2	C	9	0	19	George
5 th	10 1/8	B flat	10	3	14	Albert Victor
6 th	10 3/8	A flat	13	1	18	Arthur
7 th	11 1/4	G flat	16	2	19	Alfred
8 th	11 3/4	F	20	2	24	Alexandra
9 th	14 1/2	E flat	27	0	0	Albert Edward
Tenor	17 1/8	D flat	38	1	15	Victoria, R.I., 1837-1887
Total weight			158	3	11	



THE "GEORGE" BELL
Weighing 9 cwt. 19 lbs.



THE "ALBERT EDWARD" BELL
Weighing 27 cwt.

The Imperial Bells taken from the *Supplement to the Graphic*, 13 May 1893, page 554 (25.0cm by 15.5cm)

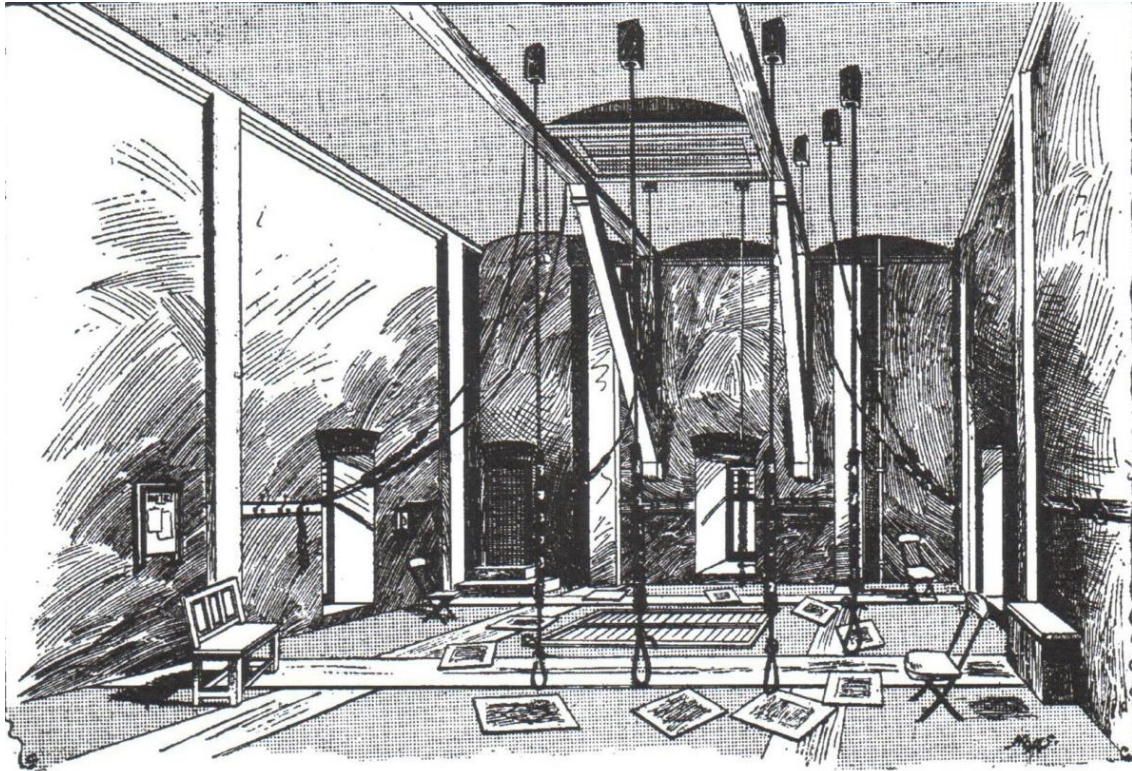


Photo by John W. Taylor, jun., Loughborough.

The Peal to be Hung in the Queen's Tower taken from *The Sketch*, 10 May 1893, page 84 (10.0cm by 7.0cm)



Ringling the First Peal after the Institute was Declared Open by Her Majesty, taken from the *Supplement to the Graphic*, 13 May 1893, page 554 (22.6cm by 17.5cm)



Institute ringing chamber - source of print unknown

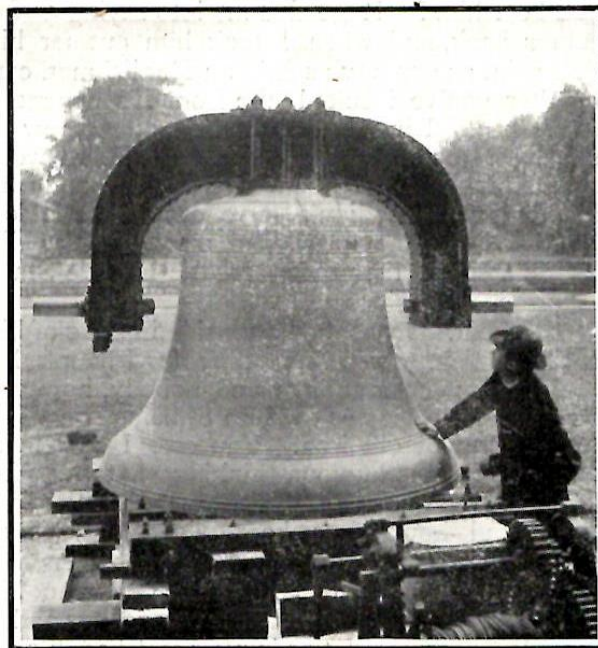
(xv) Downside Abbey, near Bath

The Basilica of St Gregory the Great at Downside, commonly known as Downside Abbey, is a Benedictine monastery. It is the senior community of the English Benedictine Congregation and includes Downside School for educating children aged 11 to 18.



The church houses the relics of St. Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh, who as an Irish martyr was executed at Tyburn in 1681.

The church is built in the Gothic Revival style, and is designed to rival in size the medieval cathedrals of England that were lost to the Catholic Church through the Reformation. The earliest part is the decorated transepts by Archibald Dunn and Edward Hansom dating from 1882. The nave by Giles Gilbert Scott (circ. 1923–25) remains unfinished, with its western wall in crude Lias stone standing bare and undecorated. The tower, completed in 1938, at 166 feet (55 m), is the second highest in Somerset - the first section of which was built between 1881-4 by Dunn and Hansom, and stood at 132 feet tall. In 1938 Sir Giles Gilbert Scott added the Gasquet Crown, the final section, to the top.



The ninth biggest bell in England – Great Bede taken from *The Sphere*, 12 December 1903, page 226 (7.0cm by 7.5cm)

The bell known as Great Bede was previously hung in the Minster Church of St John the Evangelist at Beverley. Cast in 1703 weighing 35cwt it was hung for slow swinging. This bell was replaced by Great John in 1900. Cast by Taylor's bell foundry at Loughborough it weighed 113cwt and carried the inscription *Voco Alumnos Ut Gratias Hodie Agant Numini*. Shortly afterwards the bell was sold to Downside Abbey and renamed Great Bede after Archbishop Bede Vaughan, second Archbishop of Sydney (1877-1883). It was brought to Downside Abbey by train before using a horse and cart to complete the final stage of the trip. It was the 9th largest bell in the country when it arrived at Downside. 'Great Bede' was consecrated by Abbot Ford in July 1903 before being lifted into the tower.